

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **The Greenville News**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)


Inglis shares Iraq idea with Bush
Representative visits White House to discuss delegation's Iraq trip

Published: Friday, April 20, 2007 - 2:00 am

By Ellyn Ferguson
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Bob Inglis found President Bush willing to listen but noncommittal to his idea of setting goals for Iraqi leaders to achieve during the U.S. troop surge.

Inglis, R-Travelers Rest, and five other lawmakers with whom he recently visited Iraq spent 45 minutes Thursday talking about their trip with Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, presidential adviser Karl Rove and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley.

STORYCHAT 
What's your view?
[Click here](#) to add
your comment to
this story.

Bush met with the three Republicans and three Democrats just before he left for a speech in Ohio on the war on terrorism.

The session had "a lot of give and take" between the lawmakers and White House officials, he said.

Advertisement "I was very grateful for the opportunity to pass along some observations," Inglis said.

Inglis told Bush he saw encouraging signs that the buildup of U.S. troops and a closer working relationship with Iraqi soldiers was paying off.

In particular, Inglis said he was impressed that his delegation was able to make the drive from Baghdad International Airport to the fortified Green Zone, visit a marketplace in a Baghdad neighborhood and see U.S. soldiers living in an Iraqi police station in a Baghdad neighborhood.

But Inglis also told the president that after talking with Kurdish officials and others, he was more convinced than ever that Iraqi officials need U.S. pressure in the form of goals to settle political and sectarian differences.

Inglis said he made it clear that the penalty for Iraqis not meeting a benchmark shouldn't include the threat of U.S. troop withdrawals.

But Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., did recommend that Bush reconsider the U.S. troop surge.

"I told the president that the time had come to end this war," Welch said after the meeting.
