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May 1, 2006

Monday, May 1, 2006

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Washington, DC - As the nation marks the third anniversary of the premature announcement of the conclusion of major combat operations, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) called for a substantial debate to assess the War in Iraq. The Congresswoman signed a discharge petition to bring to the floor of the House of Representatives legislation addressing the status of the War in Iraq.

"The war in Iraq is one of the biggest issues our nation faces — in the numbers who have lost their lives or been injured, in addition to the impact on our standing in the world, the overall drain on the military itself and our nation's financial resources. As Members of Congress we have a role to play in determining the nation's policy in Iraq," stated Congresswoman Matsui. "In fact, we have a responsibility to our soldiers and the American people to have a thoughtful and vigorous debate. I will continue to work with my colleagues to see that that debate happens. This country deserves no less." By signing this petition, Congresswoman Matsui joined a bipartisan coalition of over 100 Members of Congress in urging the Republican Leadership to allow a full debate on the nation's Iraq policy. This petition would allow for up to 17 hours of general debate — almost two and a half minutes per Member — which is a far cry from the 8 seconds each Member potentially has during a typical one-hour debate.

In explaining her support of House Concurrent Resolution 348, which ties our troop levels to the constitutional process, Congresswoman Matsui stated, "After three years, this Administration has demonstrated that the War in Iraq is a puzzle they cannot solve. They have yet to clearly articulate a plan to safely and responsibly drawdown our troops. Iraq now has a national, elected government. We should support the political process for as long as we can, as long as it remains viable, but we cannot be there forever."

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