

I-VOTE 2008 Video Transcript

United Kingdom

Mr. Jamison Reed

Labour Member of Parliament for Copeland

Reed (56 seconds): “This has really been a wonderful program and I think coming from the United Kingdom we have a certain perspective on the United States. It’s one of our oldest allies and certainly our best friend in the world. I think to come here and to speak to politicians, to speak to academics, to speak to regular American people about America and about its place in the world has been absolutely fascinating. And for me, even as somebody who has worked in America and visited America a lot, I really have learned a great deal about how Americans see themselves; about how they see the institutions of government; about how they see their country and its place in the world; and how they understand its relationship with other countries like Britain, like Australia, like New Zealand, like Canada. But also how they see the relationship between the United States and countries like Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh has been incredibly informative and instructive in that way.”

Reed (26 seconds): “The IVOTE program is the only program I’m aware of in any country in the world whereby a national government will actively seek the views of people from around the world about that government and the country of that government. I think it’s genuinely progressive. I think it’s forward thinking. I think it’s a model for other countries to emulate. Certainly, I would like to see a similar program in the United Kingdom. And I will be recommending that when I go back to Parliament.”