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June 16, 2009

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Wittman Opposes Short Changing The Troops

Decries Misuse of Troop Bill for Unrelated Political Spending

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Rob Wittman today opposed passage of H.R. 2346, The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009. Historically intended as a vehicle to fund mission critical combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the once popular legislation was loaded up in recent weeks with unrelated and controversial deficit spending initiatives. It passed the House by a vote of 226 to 202.

“I cannot in good conscience support a version of this bill that cuts \$4.6 billion from original troop funding levels and holds the remainder hostage in order to bailout foreign governments or help buy up old gas guzzling cars. Our service members deserve better from this Congress,” said Wittman.

Wittman, along with a clear majority of House Republicans, initially supported the legislation when it passed the House in May. However, unrelated additions, like \$1 billion in funding for the Cash for Clunkers program and several billion for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), poisoned the normally bipartisan nature of the bill. Cash for Clunkers is a recently passed mandate whereby the government will pay for their older less fuel efficient cars to provide assistance in purchasing newer cars with better fuel economy.

“This is exactly what people hate about Washington. If Speaker Pelosi would like a vote on Cash for Clunkers or IMF funding, then they should be able to stand on their own. She certainly shouldn’t be playing partisan political games with money intended for our troops on the front lines,” said Wittman.

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

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WITTMAN WEEKLY WASHINGTON UPDATE

June 10, 2009

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