

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC responds to Congressman Blumenauer's proposal for withdrawal from Iraq, calls for more pressure on Oregon delegation to back quick end to US occupation.

Contacts: Will Seaman
503-888-7455
PPRC Voicemail
(503) 344-5078
pprcnews@yahoo.com
www.pprc-news.org

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PPRC responds to Blumenauer's proposal for withdrawal from Iraq, calls for more pressure on Oregon delegation to back quick end to US occupation.

PPRC is expressing encouragement for the recent Democratic Party moves favoring an end to the US occupation of Iraq. "We hope that Representatives Hooley and Wu and Senator Wyden begin to recognize that they can't stay on the sidelines on the question of Iraq," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "The faster the Democrats come around to the views of their constituents in opposing this misguided, criminal occupation, the faster their Republican counterparts will see the writing on the wall for the upcoming midterm elections and the faster this country will bring all US troops home from Iraq." Congressman Peter DeFazio has already published a proposal for withdrawal from Iraq in an open letter to President Bush.

Seaman said that one key to bringing US troops home from Iraq soon will be an active and vocal electorate, and that PPRC is urging that now is the time to be making phone calls to Washington. "We should be flooding our Senators and Representatives with phone calls, letters, faxes and e-mails calling on them to take an active part in the drive to bring the troops home," said Seaman. "Each call we make, each letter we write, further tips the balance against the White House officials who lied and defrauded this country into war, and each call and letter makes it more likely that every US soldier will be returning home alive."

PPRC is most supportive of Congressman Blumenauer's call for an immediate withdrawal of National Guard troops. "Many local organizations have been actively lobbying our governor to take this step, so it is very gratifying to hear support from the Congressman's office," said Seaman. "We support the calls for a timetable for complete withdrawal, and the recognition of the need for cooperating with other countries of the region and for engaging with the many factions within Iraq, including those actively resisting the US occupation." Seaman said that it was also encouraging to see Blumenauer's call for guarantees that the US has no plans for permanent military bases, and the emphasis placed on the economic challenges faced by the Iraqi people. "Our

country is responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis, and for devastating their country," said Seaman. "For a withdrawal plan to have any hope of success, it must involve significant reparations to the Iraqi people, and reconstruction aid that respects the rights of Iraqis to control their resources and to decide for themselves on the structure of their economy."

PPRC will be holding their regular Friday rally and march on the day after Thanksgiving, where they plan to give out hundreds of "OUT OF IRAQ NOW!" bumper stickers. "We'll be celebrating 'Buy Nothing Day', a protest against corporate-driven consumerism, and we'll be encouraging people to show their support for a speedy withdrawal of US troops from Iraq," said Seaman. "This marks the fifth year we've been out at Pioneer Courthouse Square during the holiday season, and we're hopeful that this coming year will bring an end to Bush's war and occupation of Iraq."

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