JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
CONNECTICUT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 7, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
United States Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Hastert:

I write today to propose that Congressional leaders and the President form an Iraq working group to be comprised of Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress and senior officials from the Administration.

While as a democracy we will and should continue to debate the events in Iraq, most of us agree that the stakes, both for our country and the world, are simply too great for us not to be successful in Iraq. The Iraq working group begins with that premise and then offers a mechanism for a way forward. Through this group I hope we could build more bipartisanship on basic strategy and tactics and so build more national understanding of what is necessary for success in Iraq. Senator Arthur Vandenberg from Michigan captured it when he said "To me 'bipartisan foreign policy' means a mutual effort, under our indispensable two-Party system, to unite our official voice at the water's edge so that America speaks with maximum authority against those who would divide and conquer us and the free world."

I would hope that this proposal might provide a way for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work with the Administration to come together in the best traditions of our great nation and work toward victory against a global and grave threat, to make our country and the world a safer and more secure place. If you would like additional information, your staff may contact Fred Downey (4-8787) of my office. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

cc: President George W. Bush
Senator William H. Frist, M.D.
Senator Harry Reid
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

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