

3/12/2007 - Congressman Albio Sires Calls For Equal Funding Of Iraq Reconstruction

The Partnership for Iraq Reconstruction Act requires the Iraqi government to match all U.S. funds

For Immediate Release

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(Washington, D.C.) - Today Congressman Albio Sires introduced legislation which would hold the Iraqi Government accountable for rebuilding their country and ensure they take a more active role in reconstruction efforts. H.R. 1325, the Partnership for Iraq Reconstruction Act, would require the Iraqi Government to match all U.S. funds used for reconstruction in Iraq.

"The Iraqi Government estimates that \$100 billion is needed over the next four years to rebuild the country's infrastructure. The United States has already committed more than \$38 billion; over one third of the funds needed. The Iraqi Government must also take responsibility for helping to rebuild their country and U.S. spending cannot be open-ended," said Congressman Sires.

Currently, the Iraqi Government is committing \$10 billion of its own resources for reconstruction efforts. H.R. 1325 would require that the Iraqi government make available matching funds for all future money the United States allocates for reconstruction assistance. The bill would also require the President to report to Congress on the implementation of this Act.

"Reconstruction in Iraq must continue in order to guarantee progress and to help foster economic growth," said Congressman Sires. "This bill would hold the Iraqi government and its people accountable for their progress by giving them a greater stake in the reconstruction efforts."