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Byrd: President Bush is out of Touch

WASHINGTON, DC— It has become very clear that President Bush is unwilling to face reality when it comes to the War in Iraq, U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said today.

Byrd, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, will play a leadership role this week as the House and Senate Conference Committees begin crafting the final version of the 2007 emergency supplemental funding bill.

Byrd's response to the President's remarks today are below.

This latest statement by the President makes one thing very clear: the President is out of touch. On the most serious issue facing our country, the American people expect their elected leaders to put partisanship aside and work together in the best interests of our nation. Instead, the White House continues to cling to its failed Iraq policy, demonize dissenters, and vastly mislead the public.

The President has repeatedly derided the priorities funded by the emergency supplemental bill and has told the American people that Congress does not support the troops. His words are at odds with the facts. The bill, which will reach his desk shortly, will fully fund our troops. It will also provide more funding for critical priorities that have been neglected by this Administration, including body armor, armored vehicles, and billions for military and veterans' health care.

Congress has heard the people and crafted a new direction that will hold Iraqis responsible for their own future, and begin to extract our military from a deadly civil war fought in the streets of Iraq by methods which put our soldiers at a grave disadvantage. It is long past time for a reality check in this White House. The President needs to stop the political posturing and participate with the Congress in a constructive dialogue that best serves the interests of our great country, our troops, and the American people.

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