

# Statement of Congressman Steve Rothman on President Obama's Afghanistan Speech

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 1, 2009

CONTACT: Bob Decheine, 202-225-5061; 202-550-7869 (cell)

"When I called for the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq in 2006 and when I opposed President Bush's surge in Iraq in 2007, I said that one of the main reasons we needed to withdraw from Iraq was so that we could refocus on the problems that were being under-addressed in Afghanistan. My hope is that President Obama's shift in Afghanistan strategy and timeline for withdrawal will be the best approach to disrupting, dismantling, and defeating Al Qaeda; preventing a nuclear-armed Pakistan from falling into terrorist hands and doing so mindful of our nation's serious economic challenges at home. However, before I endorse the President's strategy I want to study the Administration's plan in detail and take part in the Congressional hearings that will be held on this critical national security matter."

###