

Statement on the Resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

For Immediate Release: November 9, 2006

Contact: Kimberly Allen, (202) 226-8364; (202) 420-1524 [cell]

On the Resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006, President Bush announced the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Congressman Steve Rothman's (D-NJ) statement follows:

"I am pleased that President Bush has finally listened to the American people and recognized that the architect of his failed plan in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, should step down.

"This decision is long overdue, given the Bush Administration's appalling pre-war planning, their disastrous prosecution of the war in Iraq, and their lack of a plan to redeploy our troops out of Iraq.

"Nevertheless, I am hopeful that Secretary Rumsfeld's resignation presents an important opportunity for our country to begin a new strategy in Iraq and in the War on Terror, and I look forward to learning more about the President's nominee for this position, former Intelligence Director Robert Gates."

###