

## Urging the Republican-Controlled Congress to Reinstate Committee to Identify and Eradicate Waste, Fraud and Abuse

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Rothman & Colleagues Urge Congress to Reinstate Committee to Identify and Eradicate Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Department of Defense Moves to Re-establish "Truman Committee" as Pentagon Watchdog

(Washington, DC) -- Continuing to press his fight to uncover and eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in the Department of Defense's contracting process, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ-9) joined with 24 House colleagues on March 8, 2005 to vote to establish a bipartisan select committee to investigate contracts awarded for activities in Afghanistan and Iraq related to the war on terrorism. The amendment to the Fiscal Year 2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, offered by Representative David Obey (D-OH), the Ranking Member on the Appropriations Committee, proposed to create a select committee modeled on the Truman Committee, which was convened following World War II and successfully saved taxpayers \$15 billion by averting wasteful or fraudulent defense spending. The Obey Amendment failed in a Committee vote by a 25-39 margin.

"It is critical that we work together in a bipartisan spirit to ensure that defense monies are spent in Iraq and Afghanistan in a transparent and accountable manner. I believe that my colleagues in Congress and I should follow the example of then-Senator Harry Truman, who fought for the U.S. Congress to unearth any abuse of taxpayer dollars following World War II and led a bipartisan effort that ultimately saved Americans billions of dollars," said Rothman. "I was disappointed that Mr. Obey's amendment was voted down by the Republican majority during the Committee Markup of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. I plan to continue to fight for the establishment of this select committee. It is critically important that we work together in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that our constituents' tax dollars are being spent appropriately."

Rothman has consistently fought for the elimination of waste, fraud and abuse in taxpayer spending. He is a cosponsor of H. Res. 116, a resolution offered by Representatives James Leach (R-IA) and John Tierney (D-MA) that also proposes to re-establish a select committee modeled after the Truman Committee. During the 108th Congress, he was also a cosponsor of H.R. 3673, the War Profiteering Act, which, if passed, would have prohibited profiteering and fraud involving a contract in connection with the war, military action, or relief or reconstruction efforts in Iraq.