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March 20, 2009

American Friends Service Committee
2101 Front St., #111
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

To Greg Coleridge and the American Friends Service Committee:

Today sadly marks the sixth anniversary of the war in Iraq. I join you in the call to bring this war to a quick and responsible end, worthy of all who have served and sacrificed.

The toll has been high: 4,865 U.S. soldiers have been lost including 191 from Ohio.

Since 2001, more than 1,700,000 members of the Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Every day, across our great nation and the world, our troops and their families are making incredible sacrifices for our country. Many of our brave men and women are being sent back for numerous tours of duty.

Recently, Secretary of Defense Gates announced that the Army will be phasing out the use of the stop loss policy which has been used to extend the tours of at least 160,000 of our brave troops beyond their contract term. I am encouraged by this announcement and am encouraged that the Obama Administration has set a time table to ensure the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq.

As a Member of Congress, I will do all that I can to ensure that our troops return home safely and that they will be forever treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve for all that they have given.

Thank you for your commitment to ending the Iraq war and to our great country.

Sincerely,



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress