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Hastert Names Hoekstra Intelligence Chairman

(Chicago, IL) House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) made the follow remarks today when he announced Representative Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) as the new Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

“Thank you all for coming out today. I want to thank our hosts at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for allowing us to use this space to make this important announcement.

“What does the Chicago Mercantile Exchange has to do with the War on Terror? Everything. The terrorists want to target our way of life. They have a radical religious vision that hates freedom, hates free enterprise, and hates diversity. The Chicago Mercantile Exchange represents the American heartland.

“I think it appropriate that we make this announcement here in America's heartland.

“I am proud to announce I will appoint Pete Hoekstra of Michigan to serve as the new Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He will replace my good friend, Porter Goss, who has been nominated by President Bush to serve as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Pete has big shoes to fill, but I am confident he will do an excellent job.

“He has long-standing experience as member of the Intelligence Committee. Pete has led several oversight missions for the Congress in the last couple of years to trouble spots around the world, including leading several trips to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf in the past year.

“He also has long experience as a reformer; working diligently to reform the Education system and to reform the way Labor does its business. Pete also has a big mission to fulfill this year. Reforming our Intelligence agencies is critical to our nation's security. The 9/11 Commission has submitted some very good ideas on how to reform our Intelligence community.

“The President and his national security team are already undertaking several reform initiatives. We hope to have recommendations ready to act on before we leave this year.

“Pete, I know you will be an excellent Chairman. I look forward to working with you to improve our nation's intelligence community to make our nation as safe as possible.”

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