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Lincoln Reaction to Bush Speech

Washington – U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) released the following statement following President Bush's speech regarding U.S. policy in Iraq.

"I am glad the President has recognized the need for a new strategy in Iraq, and I truly hope for the sake of our soldiers and the Iraqi people that the President's next steps result in success. However, against the advice of our military leaders on the ground in Iraq and the concerns of his own Joint Chiefs, the President has chosen an extremely high-risk strategy that escalates U.S. involvement in what has become a violent civil war.

"We know that real progress ultimately lies with Iraqis taking responsibility for their own future. In the coming weeks of debate, I want to ensure that as the President asks additional brave Americans to sacrifice, he also presents Congress and the American people with a clear plan that measures progress and indicates how long our troops will remain in Iraq."