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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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January 30, 2007

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

Last week the Senate Majority Leader moved to proceed to a resolution reported by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee regarding the President's plan to send more Americans into the conflicts in Iraq. Congressional authority with respect to war is part of this debate. Today the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on these legal and constitutional matters.

We write to ask the Administration's views. What constitutional authority do you recognize resides with the Congress with respect to war? How do you believe Congress can exercise its authorities? What limits to you believe exist on those authorities?

We would appreciate your prompt reply and legal analysis. We also request legal analyses and opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel on these matters.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
Chairman



ARLEN SPECTER
Ranking Member