



## MEDIA RELEASE

Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Russ Carnahan to Make Oversight, Pursuing Economic Opportunities Priorities as New Chairman of Foreign Affairs Subcommittee**

#### ***Carnahan Assumes Helm of Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight***

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) said today he will make oversight of how resources are being spent in Iraq and Afghanistan a priority as Chair of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight. Carnahan will also pursue international economic opportunities that stimulate U.S. business and job creation that are vital to our recovery here at home.

The appointment comes at a pivotal moment, one day after President Obama unveiled a new, comprehensive strategy in Afghanistan. Today, Carnahan will have the opportunity to question Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Michael Mullen about this new strategy as they testify before the full Foreign Affairs Committee.

**“Every day, there are brave American men and women putting their lives on the line in Iraq and Afghanistan,”** Carnahan said. **“We have a responsibility to them and to the taxpayers of this country to make sure that we have a strict accounting of how resources are being spent. We demanded it during the last administration, and it is only proper to do so now.”**

Carnahan has consistently called for more rigorous accounting of American operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, calling it a patriotic duty that dates back to 1941, when then-Senator Harry S Truman of Missouri launched a Senate committee to look into how World War II resources were being spent.

Carnahan said he will utilize the subcommittee’s oversight over key international economic, travel and trade programs to aggressively pursue policies that can help stimulate job growth and economic development in the United States. The subcommittee conducts oversight over International Travel Promotion and Economic Impact, International Intellectual Property Protection, International Education and Visa Policy, and Farm and Food Aid from US producers in the global food crisis – programs that can have a direct, positive impact on jobs and the economy.

**“We are facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression,”** said Carnahan. **“We must leave no stone unturned as we work to get people back to work and put our nation back on the path to prosperity.”**

Carnahan will also use his new role to strongly advocate for increased global engagement and greater participation in international diplomatic organizations, calling it the surest route to greater international and economic security for America.

**“We cannot bury our heads in the sand and expect that it will make us safer,”** Carnahan said. **“Greater international engagement is not only the key to making America, and the world, more secure. It is also a key to opening new trade and economic opportunities that can help stimulate our economy here in America.”**

In addition, Carnahan plans to investigate best practices for tracking and identifying missing persons who have disappeared as a result of conflicts. Kidnapping, mass murder and imprisonment are common weapons of war, particularly in those conflicts rooted in ethnic or religious division, like the Bosnian War and the conflict in Sudan’s Darfur region. Carnahan, who has visited missing persons labs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cyprus, said that aggressive efforts to identify remains or reconnect missing persons with their families can help heal the lingering emotional and psychological wounds of war.

**“I’ve heard horrific stories from my Bosnian-American constituents in St. Louis about family members – mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers – who simply disappeared,”** Carnahan said. **“Finding answers to what happened to their loved ones can help bring closure to the survivors of conflict and bring war criminals to justice.”**

Carnahan (MO-3) will become Chair of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight on December 2. He will replace Rep. Bill Delahunt (MA-10), who will replace retiring Rep. Robert Wexler (FL-19) as head of the Subcommittee on Europe.

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