

## **McCollum supports Obama's Afghan strategy**

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Washington, DC – Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) today expressed support for President Obama's plan to achieve U.S. objectives in Afghanistan, following the speech he delivered at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"Tonight, President Obama did exactly what he told the American people he would do during the campaign – make Afghanistan a priority. I support the President's commitment of additional resources to secure Afghanistan because achieving stability in that region is vital to the security of American families. After eight years of neglect by the Bush Administration, our fighting men and women will finally have the resources they need and a full U.S. commitment to success," Congresswoman McCollum said.

Last month, Congresswoman McCollum joined Appropriations Chairman David Obey as one of 10 original co-sponsors of the Share the Sacrifice Act of 2010 (H.R.4130), a bill to establish a temporary surtax to offset the costs of the Afghanistan war. About \$300 billion has been spent on the conflict since 2001 and 68,000 U.S. troops are serving in Afghanistan.

McCollum said, "Achieving stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan is a national security priority that directly impacts the safety of our citizens. All additional funding necessary to achieve stability in this region should not be put on America's credit card, but paid for today. In a time of economic crisis, borrowing billions of dollars from China to pay for war in Afghanistan actually undermines our national security. Shared sacrifice means not only committing to fight a war but also committing to pay for it."

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the House Appropriations & Budget Committees.