

of this matter is of obvious importance to the people of Iraq who have a constitutional right to the oil resources of Iraq.

Furthermore, close ties between Hunt Oil Company and the Administration's top officials coupled with this precedent setting agreement appears morally debased. The following will assist in clarifying this connection: Ray Hunt, CEO of Hunt Oil Company, was twice appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB). Mr. Hunt raised campaign funds for President George H.W. and George W. Bush. He also personally donated \$20,000 to the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for the current President Bush. Ray Hunt gave \$100,000 toward the 2001 Bush inaugural festivities and one of his corporations, Hunt Consolidated, gave another \$250,000 toward the Bush 2005 presidential inaugural gala. In addition, Ray Hunt donated \$35 million toward the Bush library/think tank to secure additional property for the project.

This unmatched deal struck by the Hunt Oil Company coupled with the company's ties to the administration could be viewed as hostile to the interests of Iraq amidst growing knowledge of Iraqi opposition to privatization and sale of Iraq's national oil reserves.

Your investigation should address how the agreement will affect Iraqi public sentiment toward the Iraqi and U.S. governments, insurgent efforts, the stability of Iraq and the stated goals of U.S. policy to bring peace and stability to the region.

I look forward to your timely response and the conclusions of your investigation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 18, 2007.

Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN: I request that the Full Committee begin an investigation into the recently announced oil production sharing agreement between the Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The recently announced agreement raises numerous concerns.

(I) Was the U.S. company Hunt Oil and its CEO, Ray Hunt, in entering into the agreement with the KRG, the beneficiary of a special relationship with the Bush administration? Have reported ties between Ray Hunt and the Bush administration led to special advocacy for Hunt Oil by the administration that resulted in the production sharing agreement with the KRG?

In 2002, Mr. Hunt acted as the finance chairman of the Republican National Committee for President Bush. Mr. Hunt led the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for George W. Bush and personally donated \$20,000 to the committee. Mr. Hunt contributed \$100,000 toward inaugural festivities for President Bush in 2001, while Hunt Consolidated contributed \$250,000 toward the 2005 Bush presidential inaugural gala. Mr. Hunt has also given generously toward construction of the Bush library by securing \$35 million dollars in additional property for the endeavor.

Furthermore, Mr. Hunt has twice been appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB); most recently in 2006. The PFIAB is said to have access to intelligence information that is not available to a majority of the members of Congress. There are experts who acknowledge that information accessible to Mr. Hunt through the PFIAB is advantageous to the

international energy interest of the Hunt Oil Company.

It is also notable that Vice President Cheney, as the head of Halliburton, invited Mr. Ray Hunt to sit on the Halliburton Board of Directors.

(II) Was Kurdistan pressured into promulgating a new oil law and/or entering into production sharing agreement with Hunt Oil and perhaps other administration connected companies by elements of the U.S. government in Iraq?

It should be of great concern to all those who wish to see Iraq achieve self-sufficiency that the Iraqi Central Government is opposed to the agreement entered into by the Hunt Oil Company and the KRG. Iraq's oil minister, Hussain al-Shahrastani, has said "any oil deal has no standing as far as the government of Iraq is concerned. All these contracts have to be approved by the Federal Authority before they are legal. This (contract) was not presented for approval. It has no standing."

(III) Does the Hunt Oil Company's deal with the KRG foretell of more such agreements in the future? If the KRG does plan to announce more production sharing agreements in the future what would be the consequences for any revenue sharing programs initiated by the Iraqi Central Government?

On numerous occasions President Bush has stated his support for a revenue sharing program in Iraq. On May 31, 2007, at a White House press conference President Bush stated, "We're working very hard, for example, on getting an oil law with an oil revenue-sharing code that will help unite the country." On August 9, 2007, at another White House press briefing, Mr. Bush stated, "People say we need an oil revenue sharing law. I agree with that, that needs to be codified."

While many have pointed out that the oil law that President Bush has supported is primarily a privatization bill, nevertheless is not the announcement between Hunt Oil and the KRG undermining the alleged purpose of the Iraqi oil law? Is this not at odds with President Bush's stated goal of revenue sharing? Supposedly the U.S. is in favor of an Iraqi oil revenue sharing program, but will the Hunt Oil agreement with the KRG contribute to or undermine a revenue sharing program in Iraq?

It is hard to imagine that in Iraq there is any matter more controversial than oil. So long as the U.S. occupies Iraq, it is hard to imagine that there can be anything more damaging to the United States' world reputation than the awarding of oil agreements to Bush administration cronies.

In light of the Full Committee's excellent past work on Halliburton, I strongly recommend that the Full Committee ascertain the relationships between the Hunt Oil Company, the Bush administration and the KRG that resulted in the September 9, 2007 announcement of the oil production sharing agreement.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 24, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 193, H. Res. 668, H.R. 1199, and H. Res. 340 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 891 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 892 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 893 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 894 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims, and families of victims, involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHAMPTON FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND THE TRI-HAMPTON RESCUE SQUAD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad for their outstanding service and dedication to protecting our community. Everyday, they willingly and selflessly risk their lives to protect our families, friends and neighbors. They set an example with their inspiring courage and devotion and their sacrifice deserves our sincerest thanks and utmost respect.

Madam Speaker, as the son of a former Philadelphia police officer, I know how hard America's first responders work to keep our cities and towns safe. They bravely face considerable danger and peril for the safety of families across our community. As their proud representatives, we ought to be just as committed to providing our first responders with the tools they need to do their jobs. True homeland security means supporting those who keep our families safe.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad serve tirelessly to protect our community and we should do everything possible to give them the support they need to keep us safe.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA LORENSEN,
LAURA SMITH, AND BARBARA
PICHOT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Lorenson, Laura Smith, and Barbara Pichot who are being honored by the Girl Scouts Shawnee Division as the 2007 Women of Distinction.