

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-1) released the following statement following the President’s remarks on the Afghanistan Pakistan Annual Review released today:

“The credit for progress cited within the report today in degrading the Taliban goes to the courage and bravery of our troops and diplomats on the ground in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is their hard work and unwavering sacrifice which stand as the force for good and progress within the region. During my recent visit, I was encouraged by the high morale of our men and women serving to create a more stable Middle East Region, ultimately for the safety and security of this country.

“Unfortunately, the report accurately states that this progress is “fragile, reversible,” but also encourages a drawdown of forces within seven months. I believe this is short-sighted and instead focuses the mission on leaving, when we should be focused on success. It’s my hope that we remain focused on defeating those who wish to do us harm; and that any drawdown of troops result from conditions on the ground rather than simply an arbitrary deadline. We must remain vigilant in our mission to defeat the enemy, and continue unwavering in our support for those on the front lines.”

*Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.*