WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt, D-N.J., chairman of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, and U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, today issued the following statement after President-Elect Barak Obama nominated Leon Panetta as CIA Director:

“We support President-Elect Barack Obama's choice of Leon Panetta to serve as Director of the CIA. Mr. Panetta has a 40-year record in public service - notably as a member of Congress, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Chief of Staff under President Clinton, and recently as a member of the Iraq Study Group. A consumer of intelligence for years, he consistently has demonstrated an ability to lead in a bipartisan fashion and always see the big picture - attributes that would benefit the CIA and our nation.”