



The Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy

January 14, 2008

Mr. Christian S. Miller
20440 Glen Brae Drive
Saratoga, California 95070

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you for the recent letter. I appreciate hearing from you and I can deeply sympathize with the great anxiety you endured when your daughter was deployed to Iraq; my son is now serving in Afghanistan.

I believe your idea of shifting ownership of Iraq's petroleum resources to the people is a good one, but the problem is political within Iraq. Each faction does not want to give up its share of oil to the others. This political issue, and others equally complicated, make the War in Iraq one of the most difficult military and foreign policy challenges that has ever faced the United States. Hopefully, this nation will soon put a strategy in place that will stabilize Iraq, promote peace in the Middle East, and allow our combat forces to come home.

Again, thank you for your letter and your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon E. Panetta", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and somewhat abstract, with overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leon E. Panetta
Director

LEP:rk