The recent oil deal between the U.S.-based Hunt Oil

Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government raises questions since

Hunt Oil, a privately held oil company based in Texas and its founder,

Ray Hunt, have close ties to Vice-President Cheney and are large donors

to President Bush. The deal also appears to undercut the goal of oil

revenue sharing but is predictably consistent with the administration's

attempt to privatize Iraqi oil assets. Both Hunt Oil Company and

Kurdistan are strong allies with the Bush administration.

As I have said for 5 years, this war is about oil. The Bush

administration desires private control of Iraqi oil, but we have no

right to force Iraq to give up control of their oil. We have no right

to set preconditions for Iraq which lead Iraq to giving up control of

their oil. The Constitution of Iraq designates that the oil of Iraq is

the property of all Iraqi people.

I am calling for a congressional investigation to determine the role

the administration may have played in the Hunt-Kurdistan deal, the

effect the deal could have on the oil revenue sharing plan and the

attempt by the administration to privatize Iraqi oil.