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July 29, 2008

Congressman Brad Sherman
2242 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sherman,

We are writing to express our concern over the upcoming hearing in the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade on *Foreign Aid and the Fight Against Terrorism and Proliferation: Leveraging Foreign Aid to Achieve U.S. Policy Goals*. The Muslim Public Affairs Council is concerned that the witness panel, as currently proposed, will provide the committee with an incomplete picture on the use of foreign aid to achieve American foreign policy.

The Muslim American community is extremely concerned about the committee's support for Steven Emerson considering his role as a recognized anti-Muslim propagandist. As evidenced in the MPAC report *Counterproductive Counterterrorism*, which presents a case study on Steve Emerson, it is apparent that he does not possess the requisite expertise on foreign aid or foreign policy to testify at such a hearing.¹

Moreover, Emerson's ire is not limited to members of the Muslim community. He has also attacked interfaith efforts that simply include Muslims, and recently singled out the American Jewish Committee for participating in interfaith dialogue with Muslims Americans.

SEE: www.steveemerson.com/blog/2008/07/more-perils-of-interfaith-dialogue.html

For the U.S. to embark upon successful policy-making in a post-9/11 era, we must ensure that those who are relied upon for knowledge have the requisite expertise, experience, and nuanced outlook. In the interest of maintaining a good balance of views, we urge you to include an additional panelist from an NGO, university, or think-tank that can represent the positive role of civil society organizations in challenging terrorism. If, however, you cannot find any other witnesses that can balance the current witness panel, we request that you cancel or postpone the panel until such time as the committee is able to convene an unbiased slate of witnesses.

We look forward to meeting with your California and Washington D.C. offices to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Salam Al-Marayati
Executive Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council

Safiya Ghori
Government Relations Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council

¹ For reference, this report is attached to this letter.