

Bush right to name Goss as CIA chief

LAST WEEK IN the White House Rose Garden, President Bush again displayed his commitment to protecting our nation in the war on terror by nominating Rep. Porter Goss as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Goss' leadership and qualifications will be invaluable for our nation in successfully defeating terrorists worldwide.

During the past eight years, he has served in the U.S. House as the chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This, combined with his 11 years of service as a CIA officer as well as an Army Intelligence officer, makes him highly qualified to head the agency.

He is a man of integrity and strong character who is more interested in protecting American lives and obtaining the best intelligence possible than being a rubber stamp.

During his time in Congress, Goss has led many commissions reviewing our country's intelligence community, including the



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Joint Inquiry into intelligence community activities before and after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. This was the first ever bicameral review of intelligence and activities of the United States leading up to 9/11.

During this congressional investigation, Goss was a proponent of revamping our intelligence gathering operations and went so far as to challenge the administration publicly.

I call upon the Senate to quickly confirm his nomination and hope that Senate

Democrats will set aside election-year partisanship and support this well-suited nomination by the president. During his 15 years in the House, Goss has been known as a reformer who was supported by those on both sides of the political aisle; it is time he receives similar support in the Senate.

Serving with Goss in the U.S. House during this session of Congress, I have come to recognize how serious he takes our nation's security. His public service has been exemplary in the Army, CIA and serving as mayor of Sanibel, Fla., and in Congress protecting our great country. He will be a great director of the CIA.

As a mother of an enlisted man and as the congresswoman serving Colorado's 4th Congressional District, I am pleased with the leadership Bush has shown throughout the fight against terrorism. I applaud him for his nomination of Porter Goss.

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., is a member of Congress.