



TUESDAY, October 30, 2007

Contact: Shana Marchio 202.224.0309  
Charles Chamberlayne 202.224.7627

## Bond Praises Release of Intelligence Community's Budget *Senator Stresses Public's Right to Know Government's Funding Priorities*

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Senator Kit Bond, Vice Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, today praised release of the intelligence community's top line budget number.

"The American people have a right to know how and where the government is spending their money," said Bond.

In July, Congress passed legislation to implement 9-11 Commission recommendations. The legislation requires the top line budget number that Congress appropriates to our nation's intelligence community to be publicly disclosed.

Bond, who pushed to make this public disclosure law, praised today's action. One of Bond's highest priorities as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee has been to increase the intelligence community's accountability, and the release of this number is an important step in that direction. Bond noted that declassifying the overall intelligence budget will increase public accountability and permit a more informed public debate about national security.

Investigations by Congress and the 9-11 Commission laid bare some of the serious gaps in the American intelligence community that harmed our ability to prevent the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Bond stressed that drastic budget cuts to the intelligence community in the 1990's were particularly harmful to counterterrorism efforts. By declassifying the top line of the intelligence community's budget the American public will be able to evaluate the government's emphasis on intelligence. Bond noted that he is hopeful that the top line numbers for previous fiscal years will be declassified so the public can get a full accounting of the government's priorities over the last two decades.

"Good intelligence is our best defense against terrorism and it is critical that we make our intelligence community a funding priority. We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes made in the 90's, when our intelligence spending was slashed. We have been paying the price for those poor policy decisions – from the intelligence gaps before 9-11 to the faulty intelligence in the run-up to the Iraq war," said Bond.

#####