

**Opening Statement
Senator Jon Tester**

**“An Inside View of the ‘Second Insurgency’:
How Corruption and Waste Are Undermining the
U.S. Mission in Iraq”**

**Monday, September 22, 2008
628 Dirksen Senate Office Building**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to echo -- echo my appreciation for you holding this hearing. Thank Senator Byrd and -- and Senator Bingaman for being here also.

I want to thank the witnesses more importantly. I appreciate you folks being willing -- willing to come forward and testify. It would be much easier to do nothing. And I think it's very important that you are here, and I -- I look forward to your testimony.

In Montana, where I come from, a billion dollars is still a whole lot of money. And the fact is as anytime these dollars are spent improperly, it -- it not only takes away from our folks who are fighting in the field, but it also takes away from our children's future, because these are -- these are borrowed dollars.

I appreciate the fact that you are here. It comes at an interesting time, a time when the Bush administration is asking us to increase the debt limit by \$11.3 trillion -- every one of these dollars that needs to be accounted for and -- and we need to figure out where it went.

And the fact that some of it may have went to our enemies is even further troubling. So I want to thank you all for being here.