(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12), Chair of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel since 2007 and a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence today issued the following statement on President-Elect Barack Obama's expected nomination of Leon Panetta to serve as Director of the CIA.

"Having served in Congress in the wake of Watergate and the domestic surveillance abuses that surfaced during the 1970s, Mr. Panetta understands how a democratic government should operate. He also demonstrated skill in running the Office of Management and Budget and as Chief of Staff under President Clinton. We need the CIA to collect reliable, actionable intelligence in ways that respect American values and honor the Constitution. Mr. Panetta's background and reputation indicate he would serve the intelligence community, the President, and the country well."