

March 25, 2006 PRESS RELEASE

**PORTER ASSAILS BUSH DEAL WITH HUTCHISON WHAMPOA**

In a press release issued today, Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Pennsylvania, assailed a no-bid contract proposed by the Bush Administration that entrusts the screening of cargo entering the USA for radioactive materials to the Hong Kong firm Hutchison Whampoa, Ltd.

“At a time when America is threatened by global terrorism it makes no sense to allow ***any*** foreign company or nation to exercise control over sensitive infrastructure,” said Porter. “Hutchison Whampoa is owned by Li Ka-shing, one of the wealthiest men in China. Our own intelligence reports say that ‘Li is directly connected to Beijing and is willing to use his business influence to further the aims of the Chinese Government.’”

“Hutchison already controls both ends of the Panama Canal. To let this Chinese company screen even more sensitive cargo is a serious and needless security risk,” Porter continued.

Noting that the Bush deal would allow Hutchison to check cargo leaving the Bahamas for U.S. ports without any U.S. security agents present, Porter said “Once again, Bush has put short-term profits ahead of the safety of the American people. Congress should act quickly to assure that only agencies of the United States government are responsible for the security of our ports, airlines, mass transit systems, dams, nuclear plants, chemical plants, pipelines and any other facility which might lie in the crosshairs of international terrorists.

“We have already seen Congress kill a deal for Hutchison to purchase telecommunications company Global Crossing. Investigative reporter Seymour Hersch discovered that White House advisor Richard Perle stood to make \$750,000 if the deal had gone through. The revelation forced Perle to resign from the U.S. Defense Policy Board. One Hutchison Whampoa scandal is enough.

“As with Halliburton and Dubai World, national security and the global war on terrorism are at least as much about profits for the Bush Administration as they are about our safety. I don’t think that kind of thinking is healthy for our nation. It’s dangerous and ought to be stopped. The voters can stop it by electing a Democratic Congress in 2006, a Congress dedicated to ending this insanity.”

Dr. Porter’s detailed views on national security and other key issues of this campaign are attached to this press release so that the public can be made aware of them.