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WILMINGTON — U.S. Representative John Carney released the following statement this evening following President Obama's address to the nation about the situation in Libya:

“Americans have legitimate questions about the operation in Libya and the reasons for our intervention. It was important for President Obama to address the nation this evening to provide clarity on our mission.

“The United States must remain focused on protecting Libyan civilians, but we can't afford another protracted military engagement in a foreign country – especially when we have so many challenges here at home. I will not support any expansion of the operation that includes ground troops and I am deeply concerned about overtaxing our military.

“The one-week mission to establish a no-fly zone in Libya has been successful, and in the coming days, NATO will be assuming command and control of the operation. It is much easier to maintain a no-fly zone than to establish one, and I am cautiously optimistic that after NATO takes the lead, the U.S. commitment will be reduced substantially.

“On Wednesday, I am participating in a classified briefing about Libya with Secretary Gates and Secretary Clinton, and I will continue to stay engaged on the issue as we move forward.”

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