Washington, DC (June 22, 2011) – Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09), a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, issued the following statement after President Obama announced his plans to reduce troop levels in Afghanistan:

"We are making a difference in Afghanistan, and I believe that we are on track for a successful transition to Afghanistan control, but we must continue to make progress – the kind of progress that allowed us to kill Osama Bin laden and weaken al Qaeda and the Taliban – and not take steps backward," Bilirakis said. "Having been to Afghanistan, I have seen the advancements being made and I trust our Generals to tell us when the timing is right for a troop drawdown."