WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following statement on reports that Leon Panetta will be nominated as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"I'm excited that Leon's experience and expertise will be put to good use in Washington. Leon is a great manager and he'll be taking over an agency that needs a firm hand on the rudder.

"For 16 years Leon served the Central Coast in Congress, supporting some of the premiere international groups in the country. Our work with NPS, DLI and MIIS -- combined with Leon's time in the White House and his leadership on the Iraq Study Committee -- provide a firm foundation for leadership. He will make certain the president receives the intelligence and advice he needs to make good decisions.

"This appointment is another sign that the status quo won't stand under this new administration. It signals a break from the past, and I'm looking forward to working with Leon and President Obama in the coming months."

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