

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 3, 2017

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 provided a Congressional mandate for an historic shift in our nation's missile defense policy. Rather than guarding against only a "limited" threat, it is now the policy of the United States to "maintain and improve an effective, robust layered missile defense system capable of defending the territory of the United States, allies, deployed forces, and capabilities against the developing and increasingly complex ballistic missile threat." This historic policy shift will ensure the United States has a capable and comprehensive missile defense program.

We are pleased to see you are committed to developing a "state-of-the-art missile defense system," however, we are concerned it may focus on only protecting against a missile-based attack "from states like Iran and North Korea," per the White House website. As you know, our near-peer competitors are working diligently to exploit the many gaps and seams in our missile defense architecture, and continue to modernize their strategic weapons while the United States allows our aging missile defense system to fall behind this evolving threat. We stand with you 100% in your commitment to develop a state-of-the-art missile defense system. Building a robust missile defense architecture, capable of defending against any threat from any nation, will be a legacy no "pen and phone" can undo, and Americans will live safe and free for generations to come thanks to the missile defense architecture built by the Trump Administration.

You have a tremendous opportunity to rapidly accelerate many programs which will provide a real and permanent qualitative advancement in our missile defense capabilities. For example, by increasing funding to our resource-starved directed energy programs, the Trump Administration has the opportunity to complete what the Reagan Administration began and allow the United States to "leapfrog" the missile threat. By deploying multi-mission space sensors, we will be able to accurately identify and target the newest and most advanced missile threats. By finally building the East Coast Site, the Trump Administration will shore up our missile defense architecture and further protect our homeland from the Iranian missile threat. This is also a great opportunity to accelerate the Multi-Object Kill Vehicle (MOKV) program, which will ensure we are able to protect against the most advanced enemy warheads which are capable of deploying extremely effective decoys, and the new Ground-Based Interceptors with the Configuration 3 (C3) booster which will be required to adequately counter the newest missiles. The significance

of all these programs is that, once they are developed and built, there is no reversing them – the technology and the infrastructure will be there. Once the technology is mastered, the concrete poured, and the satellites deployed, the architecture is there to stay, regardless of which party controls Congress and the White House.

To this end, we believe it is imperative the forthcoming Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Supplemental Appropriations Act and the Fiscal Year 2018 Presidential Budget Request include significant increases in funding for the programs and construction projects listed above which will jump-start the critical task of rebuilding America’s missile defense system. We look forward to working with you to Make America Safe Again in the years to come, and hope you take full advantage of the Congressional mandate provided in the National Defense Authorization Act to ensure our missile defense system is capable of defeating any threat.

Most sincerely,



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, Strategic Forces Subcommittee



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chairman, Missile Defense Caucus



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Missile Defense Caucus



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Missile Defense Caucus

Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

Martha McSally  
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress

Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

John Culberson  
Member of Congress