



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC

July 14, 2009

The Honorable John Murtha
Chairman
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
H-149
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Ranking Member
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
1016 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young:

We are writing to express our strong concern over the lack of funding for United States missile defense programs in the President's FY 2010 budget. As you know, the Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) topline was slashed by \$1.2B in the FY10 budget without detailed analysis explaining the reasoning behind the funding cuts. There are two facts in this debate that have remained constant -- the **threat** from Iranian and North Korean long range ballistic missiles to the American homeland **has increased** and the overall **funding** for systems designed to protect against these threats **has decreased**. This is unacceptable.

In this year's mark-up of the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act, the missile defense cuts were debated for nearly 5 hours -- more than any other topic in the 16-hour mark-up. On that same day, President Obama acknowledged that a nuclear-armed North Korea posed a "grave threat" to the world, but despite his warning, the House Armed Services Committee chose to sustain the Administration's \$1.2B cut to missile defense programs. When the bill was debated on the floor, missile defense was once again front and center in the debate as several amendments and the motion to recommit were voted down.

The President's budget does increase funding for theater missile defenses (AEGIS ships and THAAD), which are important systems that protect our forward-deployed troops and allies from shorter-range missiles. However, with an overall \$1.2B cut, the budget sets up a false choice between protection of the United States against longer range missiles and protection of our forward-deployed troops and allies against shorter-range missiles. Both are necessary and one should not come at the expense of the other.

We urge you to thoughtfully reconsider the missile defense funding levels and restore the \$1.2B that would increase MDA's topline to match the FY09 funding level. Now, more than ever, we need to fund the very systems designed to protect Americans from a ballistic missile attack. Thank you for your consideration of this important national security matter.

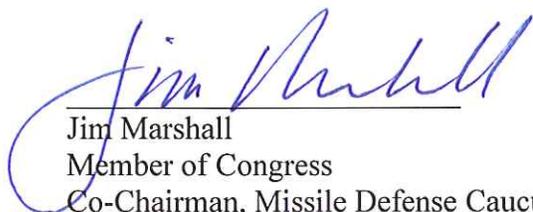
Sincerely,



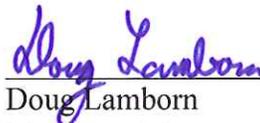
Trent Franks
Member of Congress
Co-Chairman, Missile Defense Caucus



Parker Griffith
Member of Congress
Co-Chairman, Missile Defense Caucus



Jim Marshall
Member of Congress
Co-Chairman, Missile Defense Caucus



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



Michael Turner
Member of Congress



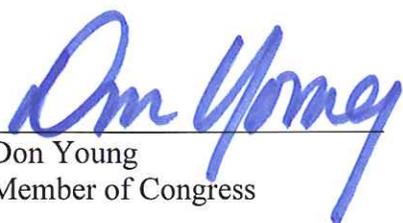
Todd Akin
Member of Congress



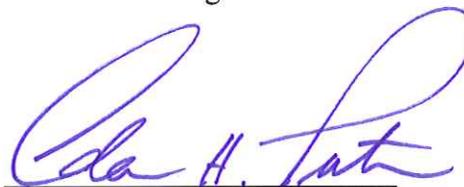
Paul Broun
Member of Congress



Robert Wittman
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Adam Putnam
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
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Wally Herger

Wally Herger
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Gregg Harper

Greg Harper
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Thaddeus McCotter
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Mike Rogers (AL)
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Peter King

Peter King
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