

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you begin work on the FY2017 Defense Appropriations Act, we write to express strong support for missile defense programs.

As you know, the United States, its deployed forces, and its allies are facing a rapidly growing threat from intermediate and long-range ballistic missile technology posed by rogue states and near-peer conventional militaries. As General Charles Jacoby, USA (ret.), the previous Commander of U.S. Northern Command, recently said, "The homeland has never been more vulnerable than it is today." The recent long-range ballistic missile tests by North Korea, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, shows just how real the threat to the United States is. In addition, there were over 300 foreign ballistic missile launches and almost 70 foreign space launches in calendar year 2015, according to the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), many of these types of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles that threaten our allies and U.S. deployed forces.

To ensure our nation stays ahead of the threat, we must strengthen our homeland and regional ballistic missile defense posture and invest in technologies to better enable addressing emerging threats in the next decade. For example, the budget request for the Missile Defense Agency in his FY17 budget submission was slashed by 10 percent (\$800 million) compared to the enacted level in FY16 and \$300 million compared to the Future Years Defense Program submitted with the FY16 budget request. Congress does not have to accept this irresponsible cut from the defense plan, which has significant impacts to specific missile defense programs. We urge you to support robust funding in your FY17 defense appropriations bill.

Additionally, and specifically, we urge you to increase funding for boost-phase, Redesigned Kill Vehicle, and Multiple Object Kill Vehicle programs, consistent with the direction in the FY16 National Defense Authorization Acts, by not less than \$30 million each. We further believe that the request for Israeli Cooperative Development and coproduction programs is significantly underfunded. We urge that you support critical increases for our ally, Israel, and that these increases not come at the expense of U.S. missile defense programs.

Faced with unpredictable and dangerous regimes, a reliable and effective Ballistic Missile Defense System is absolutely vital. Protecting the United States homeland against nuclear attack must be our highest priority.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your commitment to providing the resources necessary to preserve our national security posture amidst the challenging and dynamic global environment.

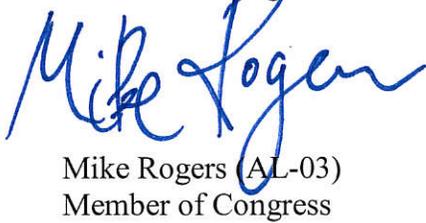
Sincerely,



Trent Franks (AZ-08)  
Member of Congress



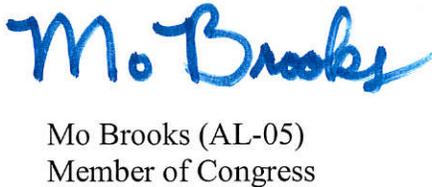
Doug Lamborn (CO-05)  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers (AL-03)  
Member of Congress



Steve Knight (CA-25)  
Member of Congress



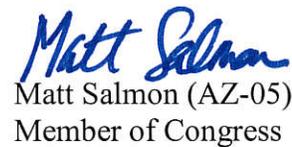
Mo Brooks (AL-05)  
Member of Congress



Don Young (AK-At Large)  
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D. (LA-04)  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon (AZ-05)  
Member of Congress



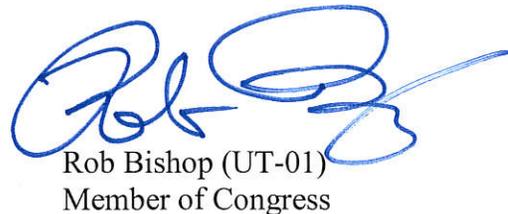
Elise Stefanik (NY-21)  
Member of Congress



Martha McSally (AZ-02)  
Member of Congress



Joe Heck (NV-03)  
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop (UT-01)  
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger (NC-09)  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin (TX-36)  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber (TX-14)  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer (ND-At Large)  
Member of Congress



Mark Walker (NC-06)  
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster (PA-09)  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores (TX-17)  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman (CO-06)  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer (NC-07)  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-09)  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski (IN-02)  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)  
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup (OH-02)  
Member of Congress



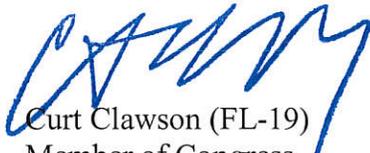
Paul Cook (CA-08)  
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk (GA-11)  
Member of Congress



Steve King (IA-04)  
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson (FL-19)  
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne (AL-01)  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine (OK-01)  
Member of Congress