

July 26, 2016

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Thornberry, and Ranking Member Smith:

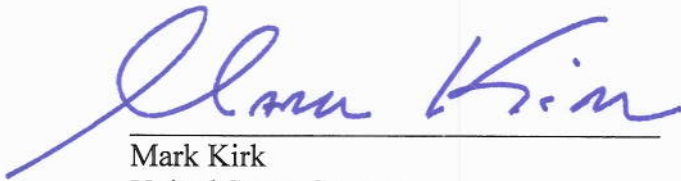
As you prepare the Conference Report for the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (NDAA)*, we write in strong support of fully funding U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense programs. These joint U.S.-Israeli programs continue to yield critical defense capabilities that protect Israel from missile and rocket threats from as near as the Gaza Strip and Lebanon to as far as Iran. As you know, investments over the years in U.S.-Israel missile defense programs have saved the lives of countless civilians from indiscriminate rocket and missile attacks.

In recent years, Congress has authorized and appropriated funding for these programs that fully met our ally's needs, even when those needs exceeded the President's Budget request. We believe that fully funding U.S.-Israel missile defense programs at \$601 million, as funded by the House-passed NDAA, is a level that will allow Israel to fully meet its national security requirements. We urge you to work in a bicameral, bipartisan manner to find a satisfactory solution to fully fund these U.S.-Israeli programs.

The three cooperative missile defense programs and the Iron Dome system meet core Israeli national security requirements. Iron Dome is designed to intercept very short-range rocket threats between two and forty-five miles, primarily fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip, Syria, Lebanon, or the Sinai Peninsula. Iron Dome's selective targeting system and radar are designed to fire its Tamir interceptors only at incoming projectiles that pose threats to population centers. The Arrow Weapon System empowers Israel to defend against imminent and emerging missile threats, and also yields data and technology that advances U.S. ballistic missile defense programs. David's Sling, designed to complement Iron Dome and the Arrow Weapon System, provides enhanced defense against threats from large caliber artillery rockets, tactical ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles.

Amid growing rocket and missile threats in the Middle East, it is prudent for the United States and Israel to advance and accelerate bilateral cooperation on missile defense technologies. We therefore urge you to fully fund U.S.-Israeli joint missile defense programs so that Israel can continue to develop and improve the three cooperative missile defense programs, as well as to purchase sufficient Iron Dome systems, including co-production of these systems in the United States, for protecting Israel's population against growing missile and rocket threats in the region.

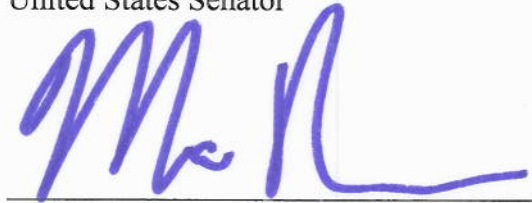
Sincerely,



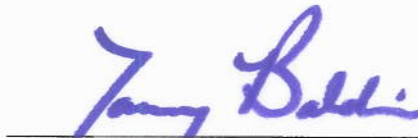
Mark Kirk
United States Senator



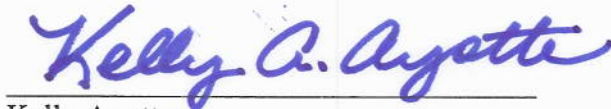
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



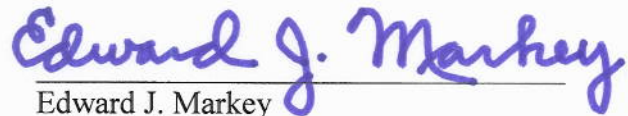
Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



David Vitter
United States Senator



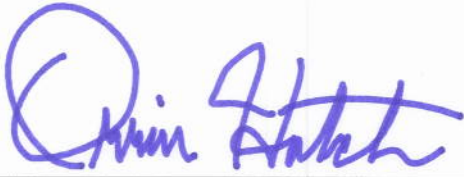
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



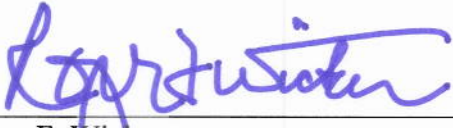
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



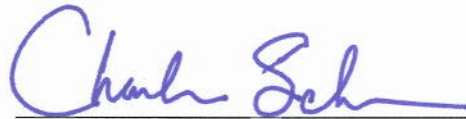
Orrin Hatch
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



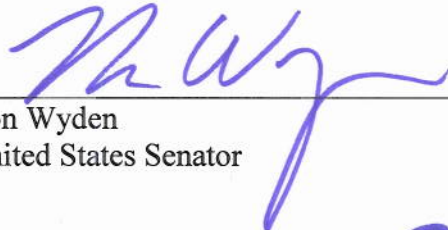
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



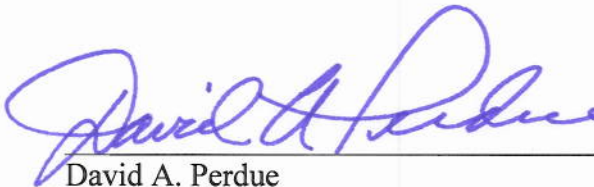
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



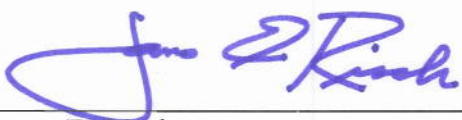
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



David A. Perdue
United States Senator



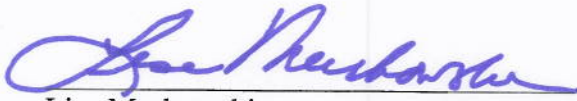
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Lisa Murkoswki
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



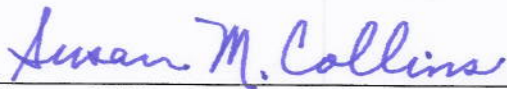
Mark Warner
United States Senator



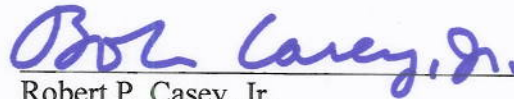
Steve Daines
United States Senator



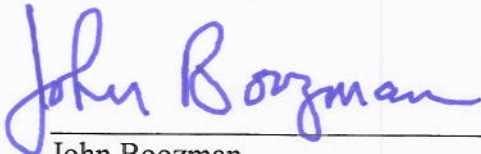
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator



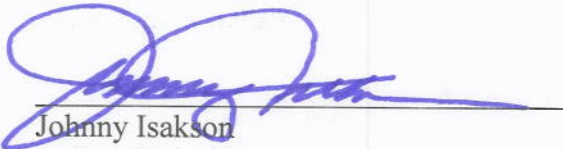
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



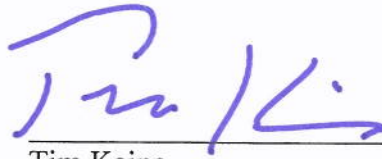
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



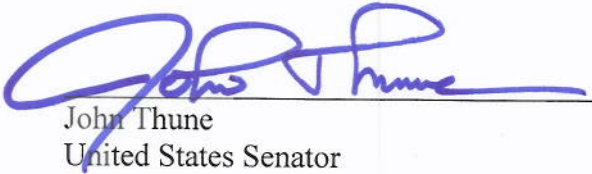
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator