

(Washington, D.C.) – Republican efforts to restore funding for key components of the comprehensive missile defense system designed to protect America’s homeland, forward-deployed troops, and allies were repeatedly rejected by Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee today. The Obama Administration slashed \$1.2 billion from national missile defense programs in its budget submission for Fiscal Year 2010.

Rep. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon (R-CA): “Considering the threat that exists, it’s ludicrous to me that we would cut funding for critical national defense capabilities. Iran and North Korea both have demonstrated the capability and intent to pursue intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear weapon programs in the last year. It’s critical for the United States to provide a comprehensive missile defense system that protects the U.S. homeland, as well as our forward-deployed troops and allies. Are we so confident in our diplomatic efforts with Iran and North Korea that we can afford a nearly 90 percent cut in European Missile Defense and a 35 percent cut to our homeland missile defenses in Alaska and California?”

Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), Ranking Member of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee: ““With near-term and increasing threats from rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran, the need is greater than ever to strengthen America’s national missile defense programs. This is essential to protect our homeland and forward-deployed troops and allies. Now is not the time to play politics with our nation’s missile defense programs. I was disappointed that the majority would not even agree to my amendment to restore a modest level of funding to missile defense. Given the increasing threat and uncertainty surrounding the intent from North Korea and Iran, a policy that reduces defense of our homeland is unwise and unacceptable.”

Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ): "There has never been a time in history when the convergence of ballistic missile proliferation, nuclear weapons programs, and jihadist terrorism so imminently threatened the peace of the entire human family. America faces a growing threat in the rising belligerence, instability, and technological advancements of rogue nations like North Korea and Iran. Both have made their resolute commitment to a long-range missile and nuclear capability, their hatred of the United States, and their hostility toward our allies unmistakably clear.

“In the face of such realities, Democrats once again rejected valuable amendments today that would have restored the critical funding needed for a robust ballistic missile defense against these very real threats; and in so doing they have shown an unbelievably dangerous disregard for reality, reducing our ability to respond to increasingly complex and growing threats and

making us more vulnerable to ballistic missile attacks. Such short-lived, so-called political victories have no place in the public forum when they hold such potentially grave consequences for America's national security.”

Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO): “Iran is currently focused on developing nuclear weapons, and North Korea is hard at work extending its military capability into space, posing a threat to the security of the United States. Despite all this, the Obama administration plans to cut the Missile Defense Agency's budget for fiscal year 2010 by \$1.2 billion. The reduction in missile defense should be of concern to all Americans. Without an investment in missile defense today, given the complexity of the science and engineering involved in developing new systems, we will not be able to respond to the threats to the United States of tomorrow.”

Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee offered the following amendments during full committee consideration of the defense authorization bill with specific

intent to restore funding for critical national missile defense capabilities:

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Restore \$120 million to Continue Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Fielding in Alaska. In its Fiscal Year 2010 budget request, the Obama Administration cut funding for critical missile interceptors scheduled to be deployed to Alaska—while adding approximately \$80 million to dismantle North Korea’s nuclear program. North Korea’s recent behavior demonstrates that the rogue regime has no intention to dismantle its nuclear program or allow the international community to inspect its nuclear facilities anytime soon. In order to ensure the U.S. homeland is protected from North Korea’s continued belligerence, Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH), the Ranking Member of the Committee’s Strategic Forces Subcommittee, offered an amendment to restore \$120 million in funding to allow the Department of Defense to continue fielding 44 interceptors and complete construction of Missile Field 2 in Alaska.

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Restore the Obama Administration’s \$1.2 Billion Cut to the National Missile Defense System. Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ), a tireless advocate for the creation of a national missile defense system, offered an amendment to fully restore the \$1.2 billion that the Obama Administration cut from the national missile defense system. The Franks’ amendment simply enumerated the worldwide threats currently posed by short, medium, and long-range ballistic missiles. The amendment included authorization to fully fund the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system and emplace all 44 interceptors. It also funds the Airborne Laser, Kinetic Energy Interceptor, the Multiple Kill Vehicle, and the Space Tracking and Surveillance System, all systems that were cut in this year’s president’s budget request.

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Restore Funding for Long-Range Missile Defense in Poland and the Czech Republic. Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH) offered an amendment that would fence \$500 million within the Missile Defense Agency budget for a missile defense system in Europe that is cost-effective and protects the U.S. homeland and our European allies.

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Prohibit Kinetic Energy Interceptor (KEI) Booster Termination. Reps. Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Doug Lamborn (R-CO) offered language to require the Department of Defense to suspend the recent termination of the Kinetic Energy Interceptor (KEI) program until Congress receives a scientific report on boost phase Missile Defense programs. This report was mandated by Congress in the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Authorization Act. The Bishop-Lamborn amendment would also require the Department of Defense to continue the planned KEI booster test firing

this year.

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Restore Funding for the Airborne Laser Program. Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) offered an amendment to restore \$237 million to the Airborne Laser Program, to be used for emergency operational capability, testing, and to enhance multi-mission capability.