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April 15, 2010

Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly
Director, Missile Defense Agency
7100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20302-7100

Dear Lt. Gen. O'Reilly:

In our classified briefing yesterday you agreed that there was additional information which should be provided to Congress for the evaluation of the Administration's Phased Adaptive Approach (PAA) to missile defense. Specifically, I am concerned that the portions of the proposed system that are intended to protect the mainland United States are not yet defined to support sufficient evaluation of its merits and the resources necessary to implement it.

Details such as system and inventory requirements, research and development milestones, independent assessments, technology maturity levels, coverage and performance analysis, program schedules, acquisition strategies, cost estimates, deployment plans, timelines for host nation agreements, operational plans, and NATO integration plans, would be vital to supporting such an evaluation. Also, the options considered and how those options were assessed would also be important information for Congress to review. However, as the missile defense acquisition expert, I seek your judgment and input on what information you believe is necessary for Congress to conduct its oversight and evaluation of the PAA.

As Iran continues to represent an emerging threat, Congressional oversight and evaluation of the Administration's proposal is imperative. Further, since the Administration scrapped a plan that would have provided missile defense coverage for the mainland United States, the Administration's proposal should be evaluated within the context of the missile defense protection provide to the United States mainland. Congress must be confident that the PAA is the best approach for increasing the protection of the mainland United States; but to have this confidence requires information.

I look forward to your diligence in providing such information as necessary for this evaluation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress