

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2009

The Honorable Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

In light of the President's decision to shelve plans to expand the U.S. missile defense system to Europe based on his assertion that the threat is reduced and alternatives are more cost effective, we are requesting the declassification of the July 2008 Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA) report, "Independent Assessment of the Proposed Deployment of Ballistic Missile Defense Systems in Europe (U)."

This independent study was required by the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act. Members of the House Armed Services Committee were briefed on its contents earlier this year in a classified briefing. This report offers a comprehensive review of the threat assessments for, and technical capabilities and cost-effectiveness of, the European missile defense proposal as well as several other alternative architectures. Since the Administration's decision is contrary to the recommendations of this report, it is essential that the report be declassified for a robust debate on how best to deploy a missile defense system to protect the U.S. and its allies.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Buck McKeon
Member of Congress



Michael Turner
Member of Congress



Mike Pence
Member of Congress