

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
MAC THORNBERY, TEXAS
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
W. TODD AKIN, MISSOURI
J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
FRANK A. LOBIONDO, NEW JERSEY
MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, M.D., LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
TOM ROONEY, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT RIGELL, VIRGINIA
CHRIS GIBSON, NEW YORK
VICKY HARTZLER, MISSOURI
JOE HECK, NEVADA
BOBBY SCHILLING, ILLINOIS
JON RUNYAN, NEW JERSEY
AUSTIN SCOTT, GEORGIA
TIM GRIFFIN, ARKANSAS
STEVEN PALAZZO, MISSISSIPPI
ALLEN B. WEST, FLORIDA
MARTHA ROBY, ALABAMA
MO BROOKS, ALABAMA
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
MIKE McINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
DAVE LOEBSACK, IOWA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
CHELLIE PINGREE, MAINE
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
BILL OWENS, NEW YORK
JOHN R. GARAMENDI, CALIFORNIA
MARK S. CRITZ, PENNSYLVANIA
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
HANK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA
BETTY SUTTON, OHIO
COLLEEN HANABUSA, HAWAII

ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 26, 2012

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I request your urgent explanation of your comments to President Medvedev in Seoul this morning.

During the New START treaty ratification process, you made specific promises that Russian concerns about missile defense will not be allowed to affect U.S. missile defense deployment plans. You further committed that the United States will make both qualitative and quantitative improvements in its missile defenses. You have already walked away from detailed promises to modernize the U.S. nuclear deterrent; are you now planning to walk away from your promises regarding U.S. missile defense as well?

As you know, in the FY12 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress enacted, and you signed into law, a provision constraining your ability to share classified U.S. missile defense information with the Russian Federation. Congress took this step because it was clear based on official testimony and Administration comments in the press that classified information about U.S. missile defenses, including hit-to-kill technology and velocity at burnout information, may be on the table as negotiating leverage for your reset with Russia. Despite signing the FY12 defense authorization legislation into law, you then issued a signing statement signaling that you may treat that provision protecting U.S. missile defense information as non-binding. This morning's comments, on top of that action, suggests that you and your administration have plans for U.S. missile defenses that you believe will not stand up to electoral scrutiny.

Congress has made exquisitely clear to your Administration and to other nations that it will block all attempts to weaken U.S. missile defenses. As the Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, which authorizes U.S. missile defense and nuclear weapons policy, I want to make perfectly clear that my colleagues and I will not allow any attempts to trade missile defense of the United States to Russia or any other country.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL R. TURNER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces