

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rep. Allen: Give us the facts on missile defense

To the Editor:

The title of Loren Thompson's opinion piece in your June 6 issue ("Rumsfeld's missile plan is just common sense") is perplexing, since there is no plan on which to apply our sense, common or otherwise.

President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld have asked the American public, and allies overseas, to buy a missile defense without providing any details about their plan.

They haven't told us anything about the architecture of any system.

They haven't said whether it would be ground-based, sea-based, space-based or a mixture. They haven't laid out a program to test unproven technologies. They have not divulged cost estimates. They haven't indicated how this system would fit, financially and structurally, with our military's other diverse missions.

The dictionary defines faith as "belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence." So far, the advocates of missile defense have identified a relatively minor threat (compared to more likely ways of delivering a weapon of mass destruction) and asked us to accept on faith that a national missile defense will work.

But Americans deserve proof through robust testing, and sound material evidence, before they are asked to divert their tax dollars to such a proposition. The hearings scheduled by Sens. Joe Biden [D-Del.] and Carl Levin [D-Mich.] will finally begin to give Americans some of the evidence that has not been provided thus far.

Rep. Tom Allen (D-Maine)

Jeffords defection pains N.Y. reader

To the Editor:

Greenburgh, N.Y. sets fuel efficiency example

To the Editor:

I read, with interest Dick Morris' column in the June 13 issue of The Hill ("How Bush could turn Green"), which highlighted the American people's desire to promote fuel-efficient cars.

Government should set the example. The federal government should only purchase fuel-efficient vehicles for its large fleet.

The town of Greenburgh, N.Y., in Westchester County, recently ordered our first hybrid car and we're going to purchase many additional vehicles in the coming years that are fuel-efficient and do not rely totally on gas.

Those of us in elected office must set an example for our constituents.

*Paul Feiner
Town Supervisor
Greenburgh, N.Y.*

Ohio reader claims bias toward GOP

To the Editor:

Why are most of your articles slanted toward the Republican Party? I thought the job of your newspaper was to give views of both parties.

*Joyce Weaver
Dayton, Ohio*