

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Missile Defense Success Story, Volume 3

Another successful Pre-Boost Intercept System! *232 hostile missiles to be eliminated*

July 16, 2001

Dear Colleague:

As Congress debates ways to address potential foreign missile threats, we must remember that missile defense (as a military system) is not the only response. In fact, it is the riskiest, most expensive, and most desperate response of all. We must not let money and political capital spent on missile defense systems undermine all other methods to reduce missile threats.

It is far easier to defend against a missile that has been dismantled than against one that has been launched.

Take, for example, the success of the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II) in reducing the threat from hostile missiles. The START II Treaty was negotiated and signed by President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in January 1993. It limits both the U.S. and Russia to 3,000-3,500 strategic warheads. Just as important for U.S. security, START II eliminates the most threatening ex-Soviet missiles, the "heavy" SS-18 ICBMs, as well as the SS-24s, and requires all silo-based ICBMs to have their multiple warheads removed (known as "de-MIRVed"). By 2007, **this pre-boost intercept system will have eliminated at least 232 threatening ex-Soviet strategic nuclear missiles** (174 SS-18s and 58 SS-24s), with a 100% intercept rate.

There is little if any contention that this pre-boost intercept system, the START II Treaty, will work reliably and consistently, and as advertised – something to keep in mind as we debate the efficacy of post-launch missile defenses.

Sincerely,



Tom Allen
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress