

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2009

Source
HJR 12

Legislative
Resolve No.
3



Relating to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System is the cornerstone of the nation's layered missile defense architecture against ballistic missile threats; and

WHEREAS the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System is the nation's only deployed operational system for defending against long-range ballistic missile threats, and its first interceptors were activated at Fort Greely, Alaska, in 2004; and

WHEREAS significant program development accomplishments during 2008 included a successful and operationally realistic flight test intercepting a target missile launched from Kodiak, the deployment of additional long-range interceptor missiles at Fort Greely, and superior weapon system readiness rates in support of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion; and

WHEREAS the Cobra Dane radar, located at Eareckson Air Station on Shemya Island, Alaska, is a key component in the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System and keeps America on alert by tracking ballistic missile threats; and

WHEREAS the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, which consists of 200 members of the Alaska National Guard, provides operational control over and security for ground-based

interceptors located in Alaska and provides security for over 300,000,000 American citizens; and

WHEREAS the Missile Defense Agency of the United States Department of Defense has characterized the overall performance of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System industry team as exceptional; and

WHEREAS, in a time of growing national economic uncertainty, the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System provides over 700 jobs in the state and has an economic effect of nearly \$250,000,000 in the state; and

WHEREAS now is not the time for the United States to change course from supporting the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System as the cornerstone of the nation's missile defense shield against ballistic missile threats; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature supports continued robust investment in the development, operation, and maintenance of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to provide the necessary funding for the ongoing development, operation, and maintenance of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to direct the United States Department of Defense to continue the development, operation, and maintenance of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System and to require that any plan or initiative by the United States Department of Defense to reduce funding for the core elements of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System be certified by the United States Secretary of Defense as not having an appreciable negative effect on national defense capability.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert M. Gates, United States Secretary of Defense; Lieutenant General Patrick J. O'Reilly, Director of the Missile Defense Agency, United States Department of Defense; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the

Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.