

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

HJR 12

“A resolution respectfully urging the United States Congress to provide the necessary funding for the ongoing development, operation, and maintenance of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System.”

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense System makes up a significant piece of the United States’ defense against foreign ballistic missile threats. Urging Congress to support the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System is crucial, because the system serves as the nation’s only deployed operational system for defending against long range ballistic missiles. Having this defense system in our state contributes greatly to Alaska’s economy, and continues to be a successful program.

The program’s first interceptors were activated at Ft. Greely, Alaska in 2004. Today, foreign missile threats remain plausible. This resolution respectfully reminds Congress that now is not the time for the U.S. to let its guard down, and change course in terms of supporting the program. This system is viewed as the cornerstone of the nation’s defense against foreign missile threats, and vital for the security of our country.

Furthermore, this resolution highlights the importance of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System to Alaska in these uncertain economic times. The program provides over 700 jobs in state, and has an economic impact of nearly \$250,000,000 on the state.

Lastly, this program boasts significant accomplishments, some as recently as 2008. Successful missions include an operationally realistic flight test intercepting a target missile launched from Kodiak, the deployment of additional long-range interceptor missiles at Ft. Greely, and superior weapon readiness rates in support of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, made up of 200 member of the Alaska National Guard.

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense System remains vital for the defense of the nation and its citizens, important to Alaska’s economy, and continues to be a successful program.

I respectfully request favorable support of House Joint Resolution 12.

Thank you.