

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 11, 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member McCain,

Thank you for your leadership to ensure that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (NDAA) was considered and passed by the Senate. As conferees from the House of Representatives and the Senate consider and merge the respective NDAA bills passed by each body, we write to urge conferees to recede to the House language which mirrors both Senate and House appropriations' language that provides approximately \$260 million for the FY13 U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense programs.

As witnessed by the recent attacks on Israel from Gaza, the continued joint efforts of the United States and Israel in missile defense systems is critical to protecting this close U.S. ally and American interests in the region. In the recent escalation of rocket attacks, the Iron Dome air defense system intercepted and destroyed approximately 400 rockets before they could reach Israeli soil and cause widespread devastation. The strikes and performance of the Iron Dome system highlighted the urgent need for development and fielding of a layered missile defense system to intercept multiple types of rockets and missiles. Additionally, the recent successful test of the David's Sling weapon system further supports increased funding to complete development and fielding of the U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense programs.

The development of the cooperative missile programs benefit both Israel and the United States. The systems are developed in both countries, providing jobs right here at home. The technology yields results that both of our militaries will utilize in our respective defense systems. U.S. funding is fully matched by that of Israel. This is, in short, a win-win.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. A similar letter has been sent to Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith.

Respectfully,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator