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Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance

Nevada Senate Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations
Riki Ellison, CEO and Founder of Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance
April 8, 2003

Chairman Washington and members of the Committee, my name is Riki Ellison. I am the CEO and founder of a non-profit organization called the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance. It is an organization made up of over 125 businesses, organizations and individuals at the local, state and national levels, including members from the state of Nevada.

I'm here today to ask for your support on Senate Joint Resolution Number 7, which supports a deployed missile defense system. In today's world, we live under the threat of a ballistic missile attack from rogue nations and terrorists around the world. Quoting the opening statement from last month's missile defense testimony by the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator John Warner of Virginia, "we have absolutely nothing in place in this nation to interdict the rogue state from firing it, terrorists firing at us or other means of a limited attack. That is unacceptable and I think the steps taken by our President and supported by the witnesses before us are very prudent and the correct steps." This threat is real to U.S. interests both at home and abroad. There are currently over two dozen countries in this world that possess weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them ballistically.

Missile defense has played and will continue to play a crucial role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Successful intercepts of Iraqi missiles by Patriot missiles have proven that the fundamental missile defense technology works and that there is a real and credible threat. The war in Iraq also proves the capability of rogue states having the will and the platforms to launch missiles against our troops and allies. Missile defense has fulfilled its crucial role in saving the lives of thousands of civilians, troops and allies.

Last month, CIA Director George Tenet and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld confirmed that North Korea has a missile capable of hitting the United States of America. And September 11, 2001 proved that terrorists and entities around the world have no fear of repercussions and cannot be deterred.

A ballistic missile attack on any of our cities by a weapon of mass destruction could kill thousands of lives and inflict massive infrastructure damage. In addition to the loss of life, 9/11 cost the United States approximately \$100 billion, and a ballistic missile attack by a weapon of mass destruction could cost this country trillions.

In the future, our hope is that missile defense will not only protect our country, troops and allies, but will also deter other countries from using, developing and proliferating ballistic missile offensive capabilities against the United States. A deployed missile defense system would dissuade investment by nations in acquiring ballistic missiles. A deployed missile defense system could offer the President and Congress other options than resorting to using military force to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction from rogue nations and terrorist organizations.

There is a real and credible threat to our country, our troops, our allies and the citizens of Nevada. I urge the state of Nevada to protect its citizens by asking the Federal Government to support a robust layered missile defense system to protect our way of life.

EXHIBIT D Committee on Leg. Affairs/Operations.

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"Protecting Our Way of Life"

Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance
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In closing, quoting Representative Duncan Hunter of California testifying before the House Armed Services Committee last month, "If the world's most destructive weapons were launched at the United States, either by accident or with malevolent intent, today there is still nothing we can do to stop them. We can't stop one. It would be the grimmest day this nation has ever seen. Were we able to stop only one of those missiles, the result would hardly be less tragic. But the number of lives saved could easily be measured in the hundreds of thousands. Given the stakes, we have no choice but to move forward and eliminate this glaring vulnerability as rapidly as possible."

Thank you for your support.