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The 111th Congress
U.S. House of Representatives

May 13, 2009

Lieutenant General Patrick J. O'Reilly
Missile Defense Agency
Offfice of the Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear General O'Reilly:

I am writing to ask you to rescind the stop-work order of May 11, for the Kinetic Energy Interceptor and to proceed with the September flight test.

As you are aware, over $1 billion has been spent on this program, and I urge you to proceed with plans for the flight test, which is only a few months away. Invaluable information could be learned from this test, and I believe the American taxpayer deserves to have this information; I am very concerned about this abrupt cancellation.

I look forward to additional information from you about plans to address boost-phase defense and ascent phase defense. At this time, however, I believe Congress does not have enough information on the overall costs of design, construction, deployment, and personnel support of alternate systems to justify discarding this program right before a flight test.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to working with you on these crucial matters related to our national defense.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

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