

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of advancing U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation—a critical investment that provides safety and stability in the Middle East. As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Defense Appropriations bill, we respectfully request:

- \$41.4 million in funding for the Iron Dome anti-rocket defense system;
- \$286.9 million in funding for the David's Sling Weapon System (DSWS);
- \$146.9 million in funding for the Arrow Weapon System (AWS).

As you know, these programs are essential to the safety and security of our ally Israel. Our requested funding levels for the upcoming year seek to address the evolving threats posed by Israeli adversaries, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran—all of which are developing more advanced, short, medium and long-range rocket and missile capabilities. In particular, the United States and Israel are ramping up serial co-production and procurement of the David's Sling Weapons System, which will defend against Large Caliber Artillery Rockets (LCAR), Tactical Ballistic Missiles (TBM), and the emerging cruise missile threat. With our support, we expect this system, along with the Arrow 3 exo-atmospheric interceptor, to be operational within the decade.

These programs also yield a tremendous return-on-investment for the United States in the form of economic, technological, and military benefits. Last year, for the first time, the United States began co-producing Iron Dome with Israel, which has already yielded American jobs and grants the U.S. a share in the program's production technology.

These proven missile defense programs are a win-win for the United States, as they save lives, prevent conflict escalation, and advance U.S. objectives by promoting regional stability and protecting a valuable ally.

During these challenging budgetary times, we can and must prioritize federal funding for the programs where federal involvement can have the greatest impact on people's lives. These cooperative programs are without question one of these worthy priorities in need of our support.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress


GRACE MENG
Member of Congress