

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Missile Defense Success Story, Volume 1

Pre-Boost Intercept System Works!

1,846 foreign missiles intercepted -- 100% success rate

June 20, 2001

Dear Colleague:

As Congress debates ways to address potential foreign missile threats, we must remember that missile defense (as a military system) is not the only response. In fact, it is the riskiest, most expensive, and most desperate response of all. We must not let money and political capital spent on missile defense systems undermine all other methods to reduce missile threats.

It is far easier to defend against a missile that has been dismantled than against one that has been launched.

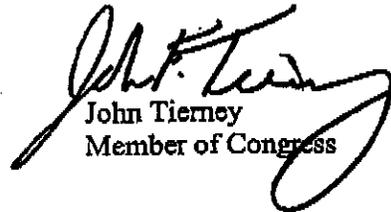
Take, for example, the success of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty in defending against hostile missiles. The INF Treaty was signed by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in December 1987. It provided for the dismantling of all U.S. and Soviet missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 km. Within three years, **this pre-boost intercept system eliminated 1,846 Soviet nuclear-capable missiles and 846 U.S. nuclear-capable missiles, with no misses – a 100% intercept rate.** The treaty also provided for a robust inspection and verification regime that enabled each side to maintain trust and confidence as they proceeded with missile reductions.

There is no question that this pre-boost intercept system, the INF Treaty, was proven to work reliably and consistently, and as advertised – something to keep in mind as we debate the efficacy of post-launch missile defenses.

Sincerely,



Tom Allen
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress