

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We write about recent reports that the Russian Federation is seeking “red button” rights over U.S. missile defense and that the Administration is considering providing Russia with access to America’s most sensitive missile defense data and technology. We are concerned that Russia, sensing your Administration’s interest in missile defense “cooperation,” will seek to obtain whatever missile defense concessions it can and that such concessions could undermine the security of the United States and our allies.

Last week, Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister, Sergei Ivanov, reportedly said, “We insist on only one thing: that we’re an equal part of it. In practical terms, that means our office will sit, for example, in Brussels and agrees on a red-button push to start an anti-missile, regardless of whether it starts from Poland, Russia or the U.K.”

No American President should ever allow a foreign nation to dictate when or how the United States defends our country and our allies. In our view, any agreement that would allow Russia to influence the defense of the United States or our allies, to say nothing of a “red button” or veto, would constitute a failure of leadership.

In addition, we maintain serious concerns about reports that the Administration may provide Russia with access to sensitive satellite data and U.S. hit-to-kill missile defense technology. As you know, the Russian Federation has a significant track record of recent espionage against the United States, and evidence suggests Russia has not halted its support for nuclear infrastructure or sophisticated arms programs of states such as Iran and Syria. We therefore ask for your written assurances that your Administration will not provide Russia with any access to sensitive U.S. data, including early warning, detection, tracking, targeting, and telemetry data, sensors or common operational picture data, or American hit-to-kill missile defense technology.

Finally, Russia continues to protest the planned deployment of U.S. missile defenses in Europe, especially phases 3 and 4 of the Phased Adaptive Approach, which would defend the United States and NATO against an attack by ICBM’s. You have previously stated to the Senate, in a December 18th letter, that you will go forward with this deployment “[r]egardless of Russia’s actions.”

This should remain your policy and the Administration should make clear in every engagement with Russia that it will have no say in the location, capability or timing of U.S. missile defense deployments with a NATO military alliance. We trust this includes the location of interceptors in Europe, including in Romania and Poland, and missile defense radars, whether in Turkey, the Republic of Georgia, or another location that is most advantageous for the defense of the American people.

We urge your Administration to share with Congress the materials on U.S. missile defense cooperation that have been provided to Russia, which heretofore the Departments of State and Defense have refused to provide.

Thank you for your attention and response to these critical matters of national security.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alan Kim

John Ensign

Adrian [Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Chuck Grassley

Kay Bailey Hutcheson

Michael B Enzi

Ron Johnson

[Signature]

Tom Coburn

[Signature]

Mike Connell

[Signature]

[Signature]

Joseph R. [Signature]

Mike Crapo

[Signature]

Kelly Ayotte

[Signature]

Paul Cochran

John Thomas M.M.

Richard Shelby

Tommy

Pat Roberts

Mike DeBourgh

Lamar Alexander

Orin Hatch

John Barrasso

Jerry Seuss

Jerry Moran

Joni DeMint

John Boozman