

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 31, 2021

The Honorable Jon Tester
Chairman
Senate Defense Appropriations
Subcommittee
SD-122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Defense Appropriations
Subcommittee
SD-122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Shelby:

Thank you for this committee's strong support of U.S.-Israel collaborative defense programs, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow as well as our continued cooperative work on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Defense Appropriations bill, we write seeking \$500 million for continued support for these in order to meet the United States' and Israel's national security needs.

Joint U.S.-Israel missile defense collaboration on Israel's multilayer missile defense system has been foundational to the defense of Israel since the 1980s. Congress has consistently supported this project. Israel's missile defense system is made up of four operational layers: Iron Dome (short-range), David's Sling (medium-range), Arrow 2 (longer range), and now Arrow 3 (very long range). The U.S.-Israeli cooperation has resulted in a system that can, and has, countered numerous missile threats from state and non-state actors from adversaries in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, and elsewhere. This system provides Israel with the ability to protect lives at home and on the battlefield, keeping its citizens and soldiers out of harm's way.

This cooperative program has also created an important flow of data and invaluable insight to support vital U.S. missile defense technology while safeguarding our strategic ally Israel and our service members in the region. This program synergizes with our ongoing operations in the area increasing interoperability between U.S. and Israeli systems and forces. Moreover, the program supports critical elements of the industrial base and important jobs here in the United States through co-development and co-production agreements.

Another area of critical importance to both the United States and Israel, is in the field of UAS, and perhaps just as importantly, counter-UAS. In February 2020, the U.S. Defense Innovation Unit announced it had selected Israeli firm D-Fend Solutions to field a counter-drone system for the FBI and U.S. military. This technology was co-developed with the U.S. Combatting Terrorism Technical Support Office. CTTSO has played a crucial role in U.S.-Israel cooperation and innovation.

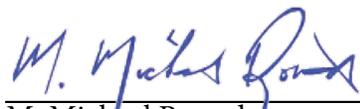
For FY 2022, in addition to ballistic missile defense, \$500 million will continue critical work on research, development and test activities to counter hostile unmanned aerial systems. This funding will further development of a range of systems designed to handle the imminent threats American and Israeli forces face.

Together, these programs confront the compelling challenges facing both Israel and the United States and form a strong foundation of the enduring friendship of our nations. We look forward to working with you on these important programs.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



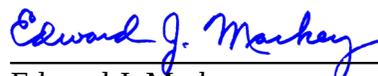
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



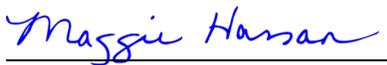
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/S/
Cory Booker
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Michael Bennet
United States Senator


Gary C Peters
United States Senator


Steve Daines
United States Senator


Alexander Padilla
United States Senator


Kevin Cramer
United States Senator


Todd Young
United States Senator


James Lankford
United States Senator


Deb Fischer
United States Senator