

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We believe the U.S. should deploy the most effective missile defenses possible—in partnership with our allies—that provide for protection for the U.S. homeland, our deployed forces, and our allies.

We have been deeply troubled that one ally, Turkey, has reportedly suggested that it will not agree to host a missile defense radar (known as the TPY-2 radar) unless the United States agrees that such information will not be shared with the state of Israel. Obviously, the United States cannot, and must not, agree to any such limitation.

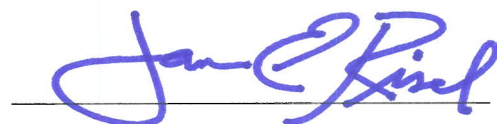
Clearly it makes sense to consider alternate sites for this radar. We believe the Republic of Georgia's geographic location would make it an ideal site for a missile defense radar aimed at Iran, and would offer clear advantages for the protection of the United States from a long range missile launched from that nation as compared to Turkey, or other potential locations in southeastern Europe. What's more, the Republic of Georgia should be a significant partner for future defense cooperation with the U.S., whether as a future member of NATO or in another capacity; it is already one of our nation's most loyal allies in the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

Could you advise us whether Georgia is being considered by the Administration as a potential host for the TPY-2 missile defense radar? We also ask that you direct the appropriate Department of Defense briefers to provide us the analysis of potential host nations for this radar, including Georgia, Turkey, and other sites in southeastern Europe. It is imperative that the U.S. put this radar in the most advantageous position possible to provide missile defense protection for the homeland.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,





Alan Kim

James McCallister