



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

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Hunter: “Potential North Korea Missile Test Underscores Need for Ballistic Missile Defense System”

Washington, D.C. --- U.S. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) today described North Korea’s provocative plans to test a long-range missile as a real-world example for the need of a missile defense shield to protect the United States and its allies. Media reports indicate that North Korea is in the final stages of preparing to test a long-range missile capable of reaching the western United States.

“Communist North Korea’s current actions directly underscore the need for the United States to deploy an effective missile defense system capable of defeating these threats. We can’t wait around idly while our enemies build and test long-range missiles capable of attacking American cities,” said Hunter.

According to recent media reports, North Korea has assembled what could be a Taepodong-2, which is believed to be the most advanced long-range missile in North Korea’s arsenal. United States and Japanese government officials have confirmed the assembly of two stages, as well as the initial fueling of the missile.

North Korea has a history of provocative missile testing. In 1998, North Korea fired a missile over Japan into the Pacific Ocean that created an international furor. North Korea self-imposed a moratorium on flight tests for long-range missiles in 1998, but said it would not adhere to the moratorium in 2005.

Hunter also criticized the large number of Democrats who voted to support an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 during House floor consideration that would have eliminated \$4.75 billion from the missile defense program, which is more than half of the funding authorized from the total program.

“The last thing we can do now is drastically cut funding for our missile defense system,” Hunter said. “In order to combat the North Korean threat and similar threats in the future, we must commit to the investment today.”

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