



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader:

Due to recent missile defense activities associated with Operation PROTECTIVE EDGE, the Government of Israel has requested \$225 million in additional U.S. funding for Iron Dome to accelerate production of Iron Dome components in Israel in order to maintain adequate stockpiles. The Department of Defense has reviewed and supports this urgent request. These funds would be in addition to the \$176 million requested in the President's FY 2015 budget for Iron Dome and also in addition to the proposed FY 2015 Congressional increase of \$175 million to offset the costs of initiating Iron Dome production in the United States. Since the start of Operation PROTECTIVE EDGE, Iron Dome has saved countless Israeli lives.

In addition to national security and foreign policy concerns with regards to the Middle East, U.S. industrial base issues are associated with support of Iron Dome. Per the Iron Dome Agreement reached between the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and the Israeli Ministry of Defense on March 5, 2014, Israel will continue to develop co-production of Iron Dome components in the United States. However, Israel assesses that it will take another two to three years to reach full production capacity in the United States, which would not address Israel's current shortfall. I recommend that the \$225 million noted above be exempt from the terms and conditions of the U.S-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement. However, all other funds appropriated by Congress for Iron Dome should remain subject to the terms and conditions of this signed international agreement.

On behalf of the Administration, I ask for your support in meeting Israel's critical missile defense needs in light of the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashton Carter", with a horizontal line underneath.

cc:
The Honorable Carl Levin
The Honorable James M. Inhofe
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Thad Cochran





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The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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On behalf of the Administration, I ask for your support in meeting Israel's critical missile defense needs in light of the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Wood".

cc:

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
The Honorable Adam Smith
The Honorable Harold Rogers
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky

