

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We have become increasingly concerned in recent months about North Korea's continued efforts to advance its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons capabilities. At the expense of its own people, Pyongyang has continued to develop ballistic missile and nuclear weapons capabilities that directly threaten our allies—the Republic of Korea and Japan. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is also moving rapidly to develop systems that can credibly threaten the United States. In fact, since 2013, Kim Jong-un has detonated three nuclear weapons and tested more than 60 missiles—more than twice as many nuclear weapons and missile tests as his father and grandfather combined. In direct response to these provocations, the U.S. and the Republic of Korea are in the process of deploying the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea. As you prepare for Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the United States, we wish to draw your attention to this deployment and to China's unwarranted economic retaliation against South Korea in response to this deployment.

As President Xi knows well, THAAD is a defensive missile system critical to protecting the Korean people and, just as importantly, the tens of thousands of American troops and their families stationed in Northeast Asia from evolving North Korean capabilities. In your discussions with President Xi, we hope you will underscore that the United States and the Republic of Korea's joint decision to deploy THAAD is entirely a result of North Korea's continued aggressive behavior.

The recent visits of both Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Northeast Asia clearly demonstrated U.S. resolve in the region. Deploying the THAAD system further demonstrates to our allies, especially to the Republic of Korea, that the United States is committed to decisively addressing North Korea's unacceptable behavior and fulfilling our treaty obligations. We appreciate your initial and important efforts to begin the deployment of THAAD to South Korea, and we respectfully request you do everything possible to expedite and complete this deployment as soon as possible.

We are also very concerned about recent retaliatory measures that Beijing has employed against South Korean companies doing business in China in direct response to the Republic of Korea-U.S. joint decision to deploy THAAD. Following the Lotte Group's swap of a golf course in Seoungju for the THAAD battery site, no less than fifty-five Lotte supermarkets across China have been shut down. In fact, Chinese authorities have targeted Korean businesses located across China with various inspections, they have cut off charter flights from South Korea, and they have temporarily instructed their travel industry not to sell tour packages to South Korea. These actions are explicitly designed to sow political dissension in South Korea and to drive a wedge between the South Korean and U.S. governments, even as we work to ensure our alliance's joint safety and security on the Korean Peninsula.

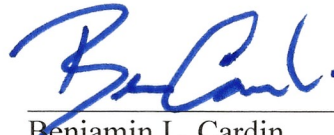
As you are aware, China, the United States, and our allies in the region must work together to end North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and to ensure stability on the Korean Peninsula. While China continues to aggressively oppose a missile defense system on the Korean Peninsula, China has done little in recent years to slow or halt North Korea's missile and nuclear programs—the only reason this system is needed. Mr. President, we hope you will call upon President Xi to reexamine his view of the THAAD deployment and encourage his country to cease its unwarranted and unfair economic retaliation against South Korea. We also hope that, given China's considerable influence over North Korea, you will discuss how China can play a more productive role in efforts to achieve the denuclearization of North Korea.

The U.S.–South Korea alliance is a lynchpin for security in the Asia-Pacific, and the South Korean people should know that the United States remains steadfast in our commitment to defend its allies. Thank you for your attention to these important issues, and we look forward to working with you to maintain peace, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

Sincerely,



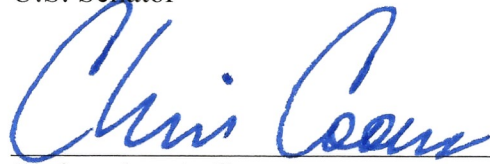
Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator



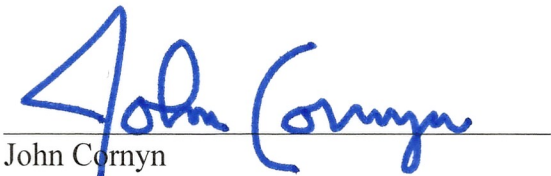
Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator



Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator



Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator



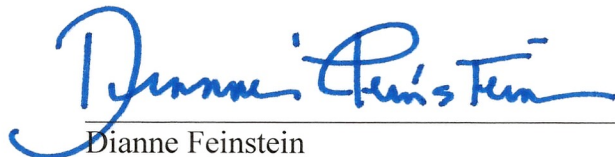
John Cornyn
U.S. Senator



Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator



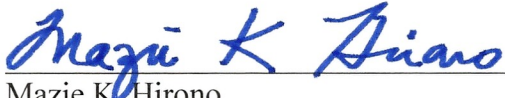
Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator



Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator



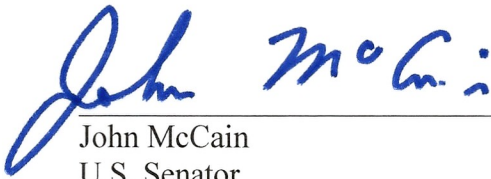
James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator



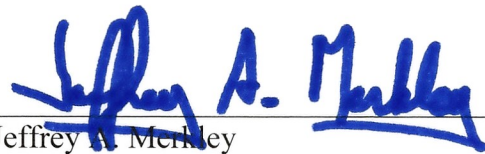
Mazie Hirono
U.S. Senator



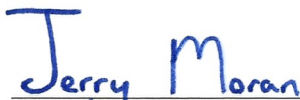
Joe Manchin III
U.S. Senator



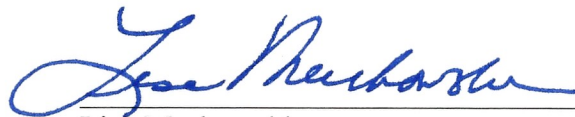
John McCain
U.S. Senator



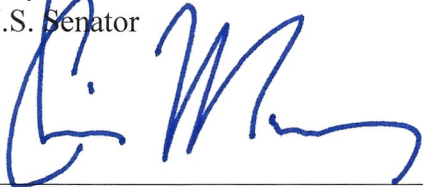
Jeffrey M. Merkle
U.S. Senator



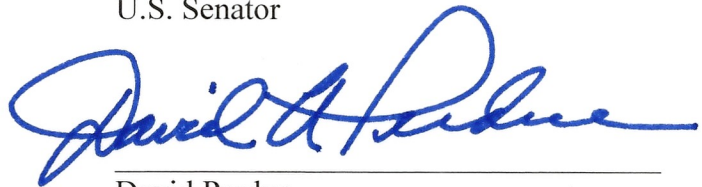
Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator



Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator



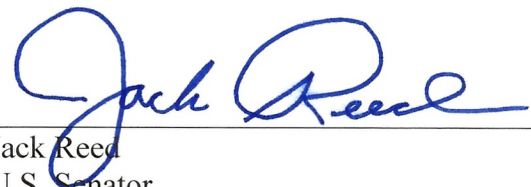
Christopher S. Murphy
U.S. Senator



David Perdue
U.S. Senator




Gary C. Peters
U.S. Senator



Jack Reed
U.S. Senator



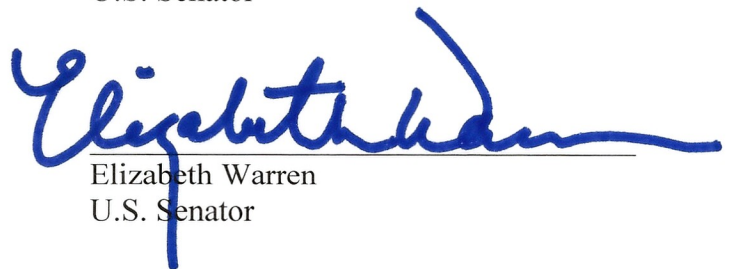
Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



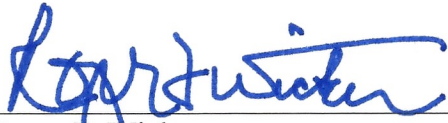
Luther Strange
U.S. Senator



Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Roger F. Wicker
U.S. Senator



Todd Young
U.S. Senator