

Wayne Allard

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SENATE APPROVES ALLARD AMENDMENT EXPEDITING TRANSFER OF MISSILE DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Senate today approved an amendment introduced by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) designed to expedite the sharing of American missile defense technology with U.S. allies. The measure was added to the FY2005 Defense Authorization Bill now under consideration.

“It is vitally important that we should work with our closest allies on missile defenses,” Senator Allard said. “Geography is absolutely critical in missile defense. We need early warning and tracking sensors in other countries to detect and intercept incoming ballistic missiles aimed at the U.S. homeland.”

“A prudent step on our part would be to assist our allies by providing them protection and helping them with their own defensive programs. My amendment will allow us to do that,” the Senator said.

The amendment contains three provisions:

- * Requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to establish an expedited process for considering the transfer of missile defense-related agreements and licenses within 30 days.
- * Requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to conduct a study on major project authorizations for missile defense. The purpose would be to examine the feasibility of providing major project authorizations for projects related to missile defense.
- * Requires the Secretary of Defense to prescribe procedures to increase the efficiency and transparency of the practices used by the Department of Defense to review applications for technical assistance agreements and licenses related to missile defense.

“International cooperation on missile defense can greatly reduce the proliferation of ballistic missiles by devaluing the ballistic missile as an effective weapons of terror,” Senator Allard said. “With missile defenses deployed, an enemy can no longer be assured of success when contemplating a missile attack – our enemies would have to think twice about investing billions of their scarce national treasure into ballistic missiles.”

Currently, the Pentagon is planning wide-ranging cooperative missile defense activities with the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Germany, Italy and other NATO allies, as well as Russia.