

intercontinental ballistic missiles, ICBMs, by China's military.

In addition to the long-established threat of ballistic missiles as a delivery system for weapons of mass destruction, on January 11, 2007, the world witnessed the vulnerability of space assets when China launched a ballistic missile to destroy a satellite. This capability extends beyond China; the Director of National Intelligence recently testified, "over the last decade, the rest of the world has made significant progress in developing counter space capabilities."

Every part of our daily lives depends upon the capability and reliability of our space systems. An attack on our space systems would not only adversely affect our military and intelligence systems, but also items such as: the Internet backbone, financial systems, navigation systems, manufacturing inventory control systems, emergency response systems, and weather tracking. Our vulnerabilities have not gone unnoticed; Wang Hucheng, an analyst for the People's Liberation Army has called our space systems the "soft ribs" of the U.S. military.

The \$5 million appropriation for the SBI study allows the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract with one or more independent entities to review the feasibility and advisability of developing a space-based interceptor element to the ballistic missile defense system. It is clear from the project tables in H.R. 2638, specifically the Program Element numbers in those tables, that Congress understood the importance of funding this study.

I have the utmost confidence in Secretary Gates to make the decision about what research and development entity should perform this study. I would like to recommend that an entity like the Institute for Defense Analysis, IDA, lead the study. IDA has the experience and technical expertise to provide policymakers a complete picture of the merits of a space-based interceptor system.

The study could lead to the development of new technologies and concepts that would provide the United States, our allies, and our deployed forces protection from the threat of rapidly proliferating ballistic missile technology, as well as the rising threat of attacks on our vulnerable national security space systems.

I would like to share the views of a few senior military leaders about what they believe to be the benefits of conducting the space-based interceptor study.

GEN Kevin Chilton, Commander of United States Strategic Command, stated:

Space based systems have great potential to address many significant global missile defense challenges. The high ground space provides could alleviate many geographic and political challenges.

GEN Henry Obering, Director of Missile Defense Agency, stated, the study

is "a pragmatic hedge against an uncertain future, not an acquisition program for space-based missile defenses. It is opportunity to learn—while there is time to learn—what is possible in space against the day when emerging threats may compel us to decide."

MG Thomas Deppe, Vice Commander of Air Force Space Command stated:

Starting the preliminary studies and analysis on a space-based layer now will provide time to understand the potential benefits and technological challenges of such a system. Early studies help to reduce risk and better determine cost and feasibility of any space-based endeavor by identifying required technologies.

The United States must study space-based defenses now while we actually have the time to gather the data necessary to make informed policy decisions and before we are forced to make a decision in a time of crisis.

I would like to thank Senators INHOFE, ALLARD, and SESSIONS for their support in ensuring this important initiative was funded.

This study—some in this body have been afraid of—will help Congress understand what a space-based layer in our missile defense system could do to defend this Nation from ballistic missile attacks and threats to our space systems.

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of Senators KYL and INHOFE. I supported the Space Test Bed study requested by the President. I would have preferred to be here today urging that my fellow Senators keep an open mind until that study can begin providing data to policy makers.

Yet there are those who refuse to study—even study—whether space-based interceptors can offer added defensive capability against ballistic missile threats to the United States, our allies, our deployed forces, even our national security space systems. As a result, this space interceptor study is the best we could get out of the Congress this year.

Let there be no mistake, this is an important step forward. I am pleased to have been able to help to push this study across the finish line.

I urge the Secretary of Defense to move quickly to get this study underway so that the next administration and the next Congress can build on today's study and finally move past the ivory tower debate about the weaponization of space.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I strongly agree with Senator KYL in regard to the space-based interceptor study. This study provides the Secretary of Defense an independent assessment of a space-based interceptor element of our missile defense system. I think we all agree that a layered missile defense capability provides us with the best defense against ballistic missile delivered weapons of mass destruction as well as a defense against attacks against our satellites which have become so necessary to what we do militarily and economically.

This study will be an independent investigation into the technical feasibility and cost effectiveness of incorporating a space-based layer to our ballistic missile defense system. The study is neither a procurement program nor an attempt to weaponize space. It could lead to the development of new technologies and concepts that would provide the United States, our allies and our deployed forces protection from the threat of rapidly proliferating ballistic missile technology, as well as the rising threat of attacks on our vulnerable national security space systems.

As Senator KYL stated, last year 120 foreign ballistic missiles were launched. North Korea, Iran, and China remain likely suspects in ballistic missile proliferation and China has proven its ability to attack satellites. Recent Russian aggression in Georgia and reports on the state of China's military raise concerns about accidental or unauthorized launches of ICBMs.

The threat exists. It is important to do these studies now in order to develop the technologies and the defenses we need. Waiting until our Nation or our allies are attacked is too late. Wishing away the threat, as some in this Congress would have us do, is not a solution.

I thank my colleagues for this important move to ensure the safety of our Nation. Having the knowledge gleaned from this study will allow us to decide on the next step, should it be necessary.

CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 70

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, section 225 of S. Con. Res. 70, the 2009 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and other levels in the resolution for legislation that enhances medical care and other benefits for America's veterans and servicemembers. The revisions are contingent on certain conditions being met, including that such legislation not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

I find that S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which was cleared by Congress on September 27, satisfies the conditions of the reserve fund for America's veterans and servicemembers. Therefore, pursuant to section 225, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2009 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 70.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 225 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	1,875.401
FY 2009	2,029.661
FY 2010	2,204.695
FY 2011	2,413.285
FY 2012	2,506.063
FY 2013	2,626.571
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 200	-3.999
FY 2009	-67.738
FY 2010	21.297
FY 2011	-14.785
FY 2012	-151.532
FY 2013	-123.648
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2008	2,564.237
FY 2009	2,538.265
FY 2010	2,566.826
FY 2011	2,692.486
FY 2012	2,734.102
FY 2013	2,858.843
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2008	2,466.678
FY 2009	2,573.277
FY 2010	2,625.751
FY 2011	2,711.447
FY 2012	2,719.529
FY 2013	2,851.939

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 225 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Armed Services Committee	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	119,050
FY 2008 Outlays	118,842
FY 2009 Budget Authority	126,030
FY 2009 Outlays	125,863
FY 2009-2013 Budget Authority	668,567
FY 2009-2013 Outlays	667,908
Adjustments	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	0
FY 2008 Outlays	0
FY 2009 Budget Authority	-27
FY 2009 Outlays	7
FY 2009-2013 Budget Authority	-2
FY 2009-2013 Outlays	-8
Revised Allocation to Senate Armed Services Committee	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	119,050
FY 2008 Outlays	118,842
FY 2009 Budget Authority	126,003
FY 2009 Outlays	125,870
FY 2009-2013 Budget Authority	668,565
FY 2009-2013 Outlays	667,900

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 70

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, section 223 of S. Con. Res. 70, the 2009

budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and other levels in the resolution for legislation that invests in America's infrastructure, including rail projects. The revisions are contingent on certain conditions being met, including that such legislation not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

I find that H.R. 2095, the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act, satisfies the conditions of the reserve fund for investments in America's infrastructure. Therefore, pursuant to section 223, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2009 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 70.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 223 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	1,875.401
FY 2009	2,029.667
FY 2010	2,204.701
FY 2011	2,413.291
FY 2012	2,506.069
FY 2013	2,626.577
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	-3.999
FY 2009	-67.732
FY 2010	21.303
FY 2011	-14.779
FY 2012	-151.526
FY 2013	-123.642
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2008	2,564.237
FY 2009	2,538.268
FY 2010	2,566.829
FY 2011	2,692.492
FY 2012	2,734.110
FY 2013	2,858.852
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2008	2,466.678
FY 2009	2,573.280
FY 2010	2,625.754
FY 2011	2,711.453
FY 2012	2,719.537
FY 2013	2,851.948

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 223 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	13,964

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 223 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE—Continued

FY 2008 Outlays	9,363
FY 2009 Budget Authority	14,432
FY 2009 Outlays	10,250
FY 2009-2013 Budget Authority	75,918
FY 2009-2013 Outlays	49,960
Adjustments	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	0
FY 2008 Outlays	0
FY 2009 Budget Authority	3
FY 2009 Outlays	3
FY 2009-2013 Budget Authority	29
FY 2009-2013 Outlays	29
Revised Allocation to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	13,964
FY 2008 Outlays	9,363
FY 2009 Budget Authority	14,435
FY 2009 Outlays	10,253
FY 2009-2013 Budget Authority	75,947
FY 2009-2013 Outlays	49,989

INSPECTOR GENERAL REFORM ACT

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I am proud to note that Congress, Saturday, voted to pass and send to the President the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008. This bipartisan bill reflects the broad congressional support for the outstanding work of our inspectors general and our desire to ensure that these important and unique Government officials are given the tools and the accountability to perform at their very best. I want to commend my colleagues, Senator MCCASKILL and Senator COLLINS, with whom I cosponsored this bill in the Senate, for their leadership and hard work on this issue. I also want to recognize the efforts of Congressman COOPER of Tennessee in the House, who has worked diligently on this legislation or some version of it through several Congresses.

It has been 30 years since Congress, as part of its post-Watergate reforms, passed the Inspectors General Act of 1978 that created an Office of Inspector General in 12 major departments and agencies to hold those agencies accountable and report back both to the agency heads and Congress on their findings. The law was amended in 1988 to add an inspector general to almost all executive agencies and departments.

The experiment has been a great success, hailed as a sort of consumer protector for the taxpayer deep within each agency. IG audits generate billions of dollars in potential savings each year. They also safeguard something even more valuable public trust