

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJM 8019

As of February 25, 2003

Brief Description: Requesting Congress to expeditiously build and deploy a missile defense system.

Sponsors: Senators Benton, Haugen, Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Roach, Shin, Reardon, Schmidt, Carlson, Swecker, Honeyford, Rossi, Oke, Zarelli, Esser, Morton, Stevens, West and Hale.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/26/03.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Diane Smith (786-7410)

Background: An increasing number of nations either currently possess the capability to launch missile attacks against the United States or are working to obtain that capability.

Due in part to advances in technology, the possibility that a missile bearing a weapon of mass destruction will be used against United States forces or interests is higher today than it was during most of the Cold War.

Terrorist groups, not just states, may have the means to buy intercontinental ballistic missiles, as well.

The United States still has no defense against missile attack. Washington State's military bases are vital to the strength of the United States military.

The importance of the Puget Sound region is unparalleled due to its accessibility for international commerce, which also makes it a prime target of attack. Defending against a missile attack is the national government's moral obligation.

Summary of Bill: The Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Washington respectfully request the representative and senators in the United States Congress to support and vote for all efforts to build and deploy a national missile defense system as rapidly as possible.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.