

From Senator David Vitter:

### **Ensuring We're Prepared For North Korea**

June 4, 2009

As North Korea continues to test nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles that could serve as serious threats to the U.S. and our allies, the Obama administration is standing by its recommendations to cut back on our missile defense programs.

The president's budget recommends cuts of \$1.6 billion from missile defense programs, including ending an expansion of the ground-based interceptors in Alaska and terminating the Multiple Kill Vehicles and Kinetic Energy Interceptor.

The recent military actions and tests by North Korea have clearly indicated they had no intention of ending their nuclear weapons program as they promised, and they continue to defy and violate previous agreements.

To address growing threats like these, the first bill I ever introduced as a member of Congress was the Realistic Tests for Realistic Threats National Security Act of 1999. The bill mandated realistic tests to match the capabilities of the missiles that threaten us, such as the long-range missiles in North Korea's arsenal.

In the U.S. Senate I introduced the Defense Against Regional Threats Act to provide for missile defense systems capable of defending our allies and forward deployed troops against a ballistic missile attack from rogue states like North Korea. I also introduced legislation to increase testing and acquisition of near-term missile defense programs.

As the top Republican on the U.S. Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces that has jurisdiction over missile defense and nuclear deterrence, I will continue pushing for measures to support our missile defense system and strengthen our national security.