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November 19, 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Howard McKeon
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee

Dear Chairman Levin, Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member McCain, and Ranking Member Smith:

I request that the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Conference Report adopt section 227 of the Report of the House Armed Services Committee on H.R. 4310 with regards to data rights and future co-production opportunities of the Iron Dome air defense system. Given the unwavering cooperation between the state of Israel and the United States and the importance of Israel's security, I believe that future co-production of Iron Dome would significantly benefit both countries.

As you know, Iron Dome successfully intercepts short-range rocket threats launched outside of Israel in all-weather situations. As we have seen particularly over the past week in the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, this system is critically needed. Reports state that the Israeli military plans to deploy nine Iron Dome batteries across the country by 2015 and requires a total of between 10 and 15 batteries to adequately protect most urban areas.

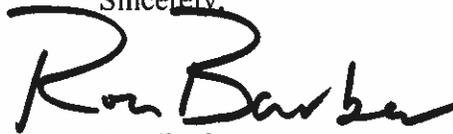
Both the House and Senate NDAA will fund Iron Dome up to 210 million dollars for the fiscal year 2013, and the House bill authorized an additional 470 million dollars through fiscal year 2015, which would bring the total spent on Iron Dome since fiscal year 2011 by the United States to 900 million dollars. This is a crucial investment that needs to be funded fully, so that we may continue our commitment to the security, safety and prosperity of Israel, our friend and ally.

This investment is also an opportunity to strengthen both countries, economically and militarily. Production of the Iron Dome must not be delayed. Bringing together our best resources would quicken delivery of these critically needed defense mechanisms, also providing redundancy for production lines and support.

Given our strong history of defense partnerships, I believe that we should explore future co-production of the Iron Dome air defense system and support this language being included in the final NDAA and its accompanying report.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Barber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Ron Barber
Member of Congress