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SJR 9 Endorses Missile Protection

(JUNEAU) - The Senate unanimously approved a resolution on Thursday calling on President George W. Bush to implement plans for a National Missile Defense System.

Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen said recently that adversaries of the United States who can not compete in the conventional military arena are developing weapons that can bypass our current defense systems. Countries around the world are developing or have nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the means to deliver them to distant targets.

The Department of Defense has designed a land-based, non-nuclear missile defense system that would be able to protect all 50 states. Alaska has been identified under the plan as a preferred site for locating the radar site and ground-based interceptors.

President Bush has recently stated his support for a nationwide missile defense system. Senate Joint Resolution 9, sponsored by Senator Loren Leman (R-Anchorage), expresses continued legislative support for national defense.

“A National Missile Defense System is important to all Americans, especially Alaskans, and we should move forward quickly to protect our citizens,” said Leman.

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Excerpts from Sen. Leman’s and Sen. Taylor’s speeches on the Senate floor are on the Majority Actuality Line, 800-478-6540.