Vice Admiral James D. Syring  
Director, Missile Defense Agency  
5700 18th Street, Bldg 245  
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5573

Vice Admiral Syring,

As Members of the New York Congressional Delegation, we write today to express our support for Ft. Drum in Jefferson County, New York, as the best location for a Continental U.S. Interceptor Site on the east coast. Your leadership and the Missile Defense Agency play a vital role in this process. Therefore, we appreciate your extensive review of the location in New York and your examination of the unique role this location would have in our nation’s overall missile defense strategy.

Ft. Drum, New York, remains a strongly preferred choice for a CIS from a strategic and economic standpoint given its location on the East Coast and its existing infrastructure and community support system. Ft. Drum is home to the 10th Mountain Division and has a long history of supporting the United States Military, welcoming new organizations and integrating new families. Additionally, Ft. Drum’s airfield, a railroad line on post and Route 81 would handle transportation needs, as well as an adequate amount of utilities to provide for the project.

Economically, constructing the site at Ft. Drum would provide a positive, lasting impact. According to the draft Environmental Impact Statement construction alone would bring between 400-600 workers to our region for up to five years. Operational utilization is expected to bring an additional 650-850 workers—that is a combined potential for up to 1,450 jobs and $220 million per year in total value added to the region.

Ultimately, the construction of a CIS in New York would provide increased battlespace, greater decision time, increased reliability and a different angle of intercept. Thank you for your full analysis of Ft. Drum as the preferred location choice. We look forward to continued dialogue moving forward.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress
Chris Collins  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Tom Reed  
Member of Congress

Christopher P. Gibson  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Richard L. Hanna  
Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress