

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2016

Dr. Jamie M. Morin  
Director  
Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Dr. Morin,

We write to express our strong support for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program, and to urge the completion of an independent cost estimate as soon as possible so that the program remains on schedule in Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond. As you know, GBSD faces tight timelines to ensure it can replace the aging Minuteman III by 2030. Decisions made in the Air Force and the Office of the Secretary of Defense today will have a significant impact on the program's schedule for years to come.

We understand that GBSD will include a redesigned nuclear command and control system. The Secretary of the Air Force has informed us that the Air Force is soliciting possible system designs from its industry partners and expects feedback within the next two months. We are urging the Secretary to conduct this outreach and provide the industry responses to your office as soon as possible.

We also understand that your office has completed much of the work required to provide an estimate of GBSD costs, and we are encouraged that you are already doing preliminary work to support an estimate of the costs of the command and control portion of GBSD. Because of GBSD's strategic importance to the nation, we urge you to prioritize the completion of a full independent cost estimate as soon as the Air Force provides the required information to your office.

Based on the public statements from the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and the assurances we have received from the Secretary of the Air Force to date, we expect the Department will approve Milestone A for the GBSD program before the end of Fiscal Year 2016. We hope that this deadline remains feasible for CAPE and request that you inform us if there is any reason to believe GBSD will not reach Milestone A before the end of the fiscal year.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to advance GBSD as the program matures over the next several years.

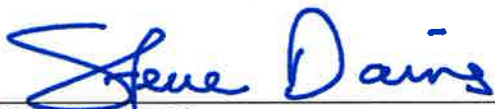
Sincerely,



JOHN HOEVEN  
United States Senator



JON TESTER  
United States Senator



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator



HEIDI HEITKAMP  
United States Senator



MICHAEL B. ENZI  
United States Senator



JOHN BARRASSO  
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER  
United States Senator