

May 8, 2013

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
BY
THE HONORABLE TOM MCCLINTOCK**

FISCAL YEAR 2014 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

As the Air Force prepares to sustain and modernize its Intercontinental Ballistic Missile fleet, I believe that competitive process among suppliers should be a fundamental consideration in future acquisition decisions. I have enclosed draft report language to reflect the need for this priority and would appreciate its inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Air Force is currently evaluating propulsion alternatives to sustain the only land-based ICBM in service (Minuteman III) until 2030. Additionally, the Air Force is also conducting its alternative analysis to develop options for modernization or replacement of the ground-based leg of United States' nuclear arsenal post 2030.

My requested language would direct the Air Force to report to Congress on efforts it will undertake to enhance and maintain a viable, competitive evaluation process in regards to future acquisitions.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that the language (below) be made part of the record:

“The Committee directs the Air Force, within 180 days, to provide a report on specific efforts it will undertake to enhance and maintain competition between multiple providers when evaluating propulsion alternatives in order to sustain the Minuteman III ICBM strategic weapon system until 2030, and what specific efforts it will undertake to enhance and maintain a competitive process when evaluating whether to modernize or replace the Minuteman III ICBM strategic weapon system post 2030.”

Mr. Chairman, I hope you and the Committee share my views on this matter and will give this request favorable consideration. Thank you for your efforts to improve our national security.