

Congressman Rothman: Israel Needs More Iron Dome Batteries

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta Voices Strong Support for Program

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Washington, DC – Congressman Steve Rothman (NJ-9), a member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, released the following statement:

I am pleased to see that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and the Obama Administration understand the importance of and remain committed to funding the life-saving rocket defense program, Iron Dome. We must continue to stand with Israel to make sure that our most important strategic ally in the region has the additional Iron Dome batteries it needs to protect its population from rocket attacks. As a member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I will continue to work with my colleagues to robustly fund Iron Dome.

Over the past weeks, we have once again seen the tremendous importance and effectiveness of Iron Dome that is now deployed in Israel. In the face of rockets fired by terrorists from Gaza into southern Israel, Iron Dome has been remarkably successful in saving lives and preventing all-out war.

Iron Dome helps give Israel the ability to protect its civilians while giving its leaders the strategic space and time to take the appropriate action to root out terrorists and carefully plan their next steps. In this latest round of attacks from Gaza, Iron Dome intercepted more than 90% of incoming rockets.

The Obama Administration and Congress previously allocated \$204 million for Iron Dome in 2011.

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