United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our concern that North Korea may be approaching a milestone in their drive to develop the ability to attack the United States with a nuclear weapon. If North Korea tests its intercontinental Taepo Dong-2 missile, it will be one step closer towards reaching this goal.

As you may know, on April 28, 2005, in response to a question from Senator Clinton then-Director of Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Admiral Lowell Jacoby testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that North Korea has the capability to arm a missile with a nuclear device.

According to recent news reports, Administration officials have been quoted in various U.S. and international media outlets over the past week stating that North Korea's missile test preparations are "completely consistent" with a test launch of the Taepo Dong-2.

If true, these reports have troubling implications for the United States. According to the CIA's Unclassified Report to Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions, 1 January – 31 December 2004 the Taepo Dong-2 is potentially capable of reaching parts of the United States with a nuclear-weapons-sized payload.

The combination of this CIA report, the testimony of the Admiral Jacoby and recent Administration comments regarding current North Korean activity, indicate that we may be approaching the nightmare scenario in which our only option is to negotiate with a North Korea that can attack the United States with a nuclear weapon instead of a North Korea that is still working towards that capability. While North Korea continues to develop its ability to attack the United States, our negotiating leverage decreases. After three largely fruitless years of the Six-Party Talks, time is increasingly of the essence.

As your Administration focuses on Iraq and efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, it is critically important that the threat posed by North Korea is not ignored. The threat of a North Korea with not only nuclear weapons, but the means to deliver them to U.S. soil continues to loom large. We urge you to develop a single, coordinated Presidential strategy to diplomatically address North Korea's nuclear and missile threat. We also urge you to

appoint a senior Presidential envoy to ensure implementation of this strategy. Finally, we urge you to ensure that Congress and the public are fully informed of North Korea's activities through updated intelligence products, classified and unclassified.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

Hillary Rodham Clinton