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# Blumenauer Questions Missile Defense

Congressman Earl Blumenauer has joined activists from across the country voicing opposition to President George W. Bush's national missile defense policies.

"We have a president who is insisting that more research is needed on global warming before we will commit to anything when there is sound science already proving that global warming is creating problems worldwide.

"But on the national missile defense, the president is willing to spend billions of dollars on a system that is scientifically unproven and has been shown not to work. It's expensive, ineffective and diplomatically, it's a step in the wrong direction."

According to Blumenauer, these efforts are dangerous, and could potentially cost the United States

billions of dollars.

"Before we spend additional money on Star Wars, we need to consider the technology, the cost, the threats and the impact on arms control.

"The frequent test failures demonstrates just how difficult effective missile defense is. We should not risk American lives on a bet that missile defense will work," Blumenauer said.

"Since the late 1950s, the United States has already poured over \$120 billion into missile defense efforts with almost nothing to show for it. But the more we spend, the more likely we will push countries that already have nuclear weapons, such as Russia and China, to maintain or expand their arsenals.

"We risk destroying the entire

nonproliferation regime that the U.S. has tirelessly built over the last 50 years."

"A missile defense that does not work while exacerbating tensions with potential adversaries is far worse

then no defense at all. We should spend our money on more useful things," Blumenauer said.



## Save Immigrants: Tear Down Our Wall

By JACOB G. HORNBERGER

On the heels of his recent regret for the drug-war deaths in Peru of a missionary and her baby, President Bush has now expressed condolences for deaths of 14 Mexican citizens on the Arizona desert. The men died of thirst and exposure after crossing into the United States from Mexico.

U.S. government officials blamed the deaths on the "coyote" who led the men across the border and then abandoned them without providing them with sufficient supplies. But the president, members of Congress, INS, and Border Patrol, cannot escape their own responsibility for these 14 deaths.

For years, the U.S. government has spent millions of tax dollars constructing and refortifying a wall along the Southern border in California.

The purpose of the wall? To prevent Latin America immigrants from illegally entering the United States, including those who simply want to come here to work.

Everyone knew that as the U.S. wall became increasingly fortified, immigrants would have to move farther east to make their crossing. And that meant crossing over

the less guarded, but much more inhospitable regions of the Arizona desert.

"People who illegally enter the United States have only themselves to blame. They should be obeying the law," some people suggest.

But isn't that what East German authorities used to say about people they killed trying to cross the Berlin Wall? Throughout history, people seeking either freedom or better economic conditions have never permitted walls to get in their way. It is the walls that governments construct to impede people's hopes and dreams for freedom and economic improvement that are the real crime.

More than a decade ago, Americans rejoiced at the dismantling of one of the ugliest walls in history.

It's time to dismantle our wall and to treat people who wish to enter the United States as the human beings they are.

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation and the co-editor of "The Case for Free Trade and Open Immigration."

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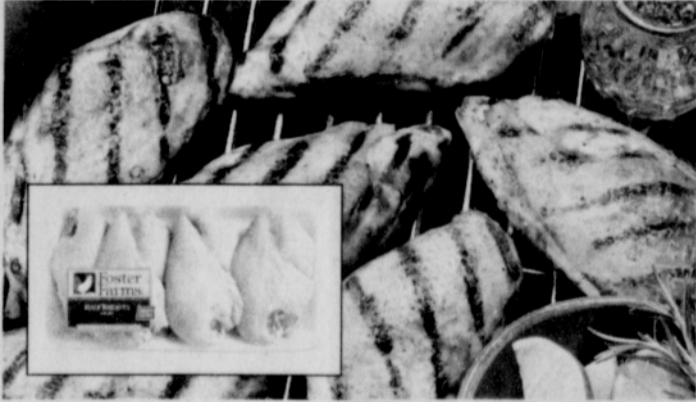
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