



THE SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE COUNCIL

March 7, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Submarine Industrial Base Council, we want to thank you for recognizing the vital role submarines play in our national defense. The submarine industrial base comprises more than 5,000 companies in all 50 states and employs tens of thousands of highly skilled American workers. This year, we request your support for three submarine program issues.

Support the DOD funding request of \$3.71 Billion (\$705 Million in RDT&E, \$3.005 Billion in SCN) and DOE funding of \$138 Million in FY19 for Columbia Class ballistic missile submarine development.

The Columbia Class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program will deliver a minimum of 12 submarines to replace the current Ohio Class SSBN fleet and provide the required strategic deterrence capabilities for decades as set forth in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review. In FY19, advanced procurement of major long lead components is initiated to support ship construction starting in 2021. This funding is vital to keep the ship on schedule. Advance construction has started and must be fully supported in FY19 to prevent a gap in U.S. deterrent capabilities.

Support the DOD funding request of \$2.796 Billion in Advance Procurement (AP) (AP \$1.811 Billion + Economic Order Quantity \$985 Million) for Virginia Class submarine construction, Procurement Funding of \$4.373 Billion for two Virginia Class submarines, and RDT&E funding of \$148 Million for future Virginia Class submarine upgrades in FY19.

Virginia Class attack submarine (SSN) funding is critical to maintain program cost, schedule and design improvements while providing future capabilities to the fleet and helping to maintain timely deliveries of two submarines per year to support the Navy's operational needs. FY19 funding supports construction of the first Block V, Virginia Payload Module (VPM) equipped submarine. VPM provides over three times the firepower of current Virginia Class submarines. VPM is the most cost effective way to restore the Navy's undersea strike capacity, which drops by 60% as the current SSGN force retires by 2028.

Request an additional \$150 Million be added to the FY19 Navy SCN, Columbia Class Submarine Advance Procurement Funding for Supplier Base Reconstitution.

The nuclear shipbuilding industrial base is poised to ramp up production capacity to support the increased demand associated with the Navy shipbuilding plan. Lack of capacity in the current industrial base poses risk to the Columbia and Virginia Class submarine programs as well as the Ford Class Aircraft Carrier program. Supplier development must be funded now due to the time necessary to add sustainable capacity and capability to the existing supply base and qualify new suppliers to perform this complex and unique work as the increase in demand starts in 2019.

The Submarine Industrial Base Council and its members are proud of their contribution to our nation's security and economy. With your help, we can continue to design and build the world's best nuclear-powered submarines that help keep America safe today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Patricia Herschkowitz
Co-Chair, SIBC

James I. Jelinek
Co-Chair, SIBC

Keith Macdowall
Co-Chair, SIBC