



THE SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE COUNCIL

March 4, 2020

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 nearly all 50 states and employs tens of thousands of highly skilled American workers. This year, we request your support for three critical submarine program issues.

Support Navy funding of \$4.4 Billion (\$397M in RDT&E, \$4.015B in SCN) and DOE funding of \$65 Million in FY21 for the Columbia Class ballistic missile submarine program.

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. This funding supports FY21 construction start in October, mitigates risk to the industrial base, provides stability to reduce program costs and is vital to keep the ship on schedule. The current Ohio Class SSBNs and the Columbia Class that will replace them are the nation's most survivable nuclear deterrent.

Support additional funding of \$2,768M to Navy, SCN, Line 5, Virginia Class Submarine, to maintain the two Virginia Class attack submarine (SSN) annual build rate. This is the Navy's #1 Unfunded Priority.

The FY21 President's Budget cut one Virginia Class Submarine from the planned two-per-year build rate. Congress specifically included \$200M in FY20 Advance Procurement funding for the ship that was cut in this year's budget request. Further, Congress directed the Navy to budget for two Virginia Class submarines in the bi-partisan FY20 Defense Authorization Act. Virginia Class attack submarine funding is critical to maintain program cost, schedule and design improvements while providing future capabilities to the fleet. Additional funding enables us to continue the two per year Virginia Class construction rate essential to sustaining production efficiencies while ensuring our national security and the Navy's continued undersea dominance.

Support an additional \$130 Million in FY21 Navy SCN, Columbia Class Submarine Advance Procurement Funding for Supplier Base Reconstitution.

We must continue to build up the fragile submarine supply base. The nuclear shipbuilding industrial base is ramping up production capacity to support the increased demand associated with the Navy shipbuilding plan. Improved capacity reduces risk to the Columbia and Virginia Class submarine programs. Advance supplier development funding must continue due to the time necessary to add sustainable capacity and capability to the industrial base and qualify new suppliers to perform complex submarine work.

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 keep America safe today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

James I. Jelinek
Co-Chair, SIBC

Patricia Herschkowitz
Co-Chair, SIBC

Keith Macdowall
Co-Chair, SIBC