



## REQUEST FOR ACTION

# SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE (SIB) FUNDING

**Request for Action: Support Robust Funding to Revitalize the Nation's Submarine Workforce and Manufacturing Capacity**

## The Submarine Industrial Base

The strength of the American submarine enterprise is directly tied to the strength of the thousands of submarine suppliers, spread from coast to coast, working daily to ensure continued US dominance of the undersea domain. Our nation must increase submarine construction capacity to support the demand for the Columbia and Virginia submarine programs, yet several decades of low-rate production resulted in thousands of suppliers leaving the industry, increased reliance on single sources, aging facilities with limited ability to make investments, and Shipbuilder in-sourcing to maintain critical skills. Capacity and workforce challenges are amplified by the continued decline of the US manufacturing sector. Now, the post-pandemic environment with the fact-of-life changes: nation-wide inflation, supply chain disruptions, and generational workforce changes continue to add to the challenges the industry faces.

Congressionally-supported workforce and supplier development funding has begun to revitalize the submarine enterprise and infuse much-needed resiliency within domestic shipbuilding. The Submarine Industrial Base (SIB), now comprised of **2,646 first-tier suppliers** across **48 states**, must continue to expand to meet the demands of the submarine enterprise. This expansion, in turn, will continue to support tens of thousands of high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs across the country and enable sustained excellence in domestic capability and US undersea dominance. The significance of these historic investments within the SIB cannot be overstated, and they remain a lifeline for the tens of thousands of dedicated SIB employees and their essential product lines that are foundational to our national defense.

As a testament to the criticality of submarine manufacturing, over **\$4.5B** has been appropriated and authorized to reconstitute the submarine industrial base (FY18–FY24), which has benefited over **230+ suppliers in 32 states**. The success of this supplier development funding has been realized through developing new suppliers, enhancing the capabilities of current suppliers, and investing in critical capacity expansions, all of which bolster the strength of the submarine industrial base. While funding to date has begun to yield results, investments of this scale take years to yield full impact. Thus far, this funding has resulted in:

- The percentage of on-pace Sequence Critical Material (SCM) **has significantly increased for Columbia and increased by 40% for Virginia** over the past 3 years.
- Enabling approximately **6 million man-hours** of annual large-scale fabrication to be outsourced to the supply base
- **130+ projects** expanding capability and capacity in critical areas such as large structural fabrication, valves, fittings, castings, forgings, and mechanical items
- **26 projects** developing alternative/second sources for critical components that are currently either single or sole-source

While this funding has made measurable differences within submarine production, continued investment is needed. FY26 funding will continue to support initiatives to expand industrial base capacity and capability, develop alternate sources, outsource additional large-scale manufacturing, and develop new technology and workforce pipelines across the country.