



REQUEST FOR ACTION

SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE (SIB) FUNDING

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. The extended period 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. Ramping up this fragile industrial base to meet the COLUMBIA and VIRGINIA submarine demand has been challenging, and those capacity and workforce challenges have been amplified by the decades-long decline of the US manufacturing sector.

Congressionally supported workforce and supplier development funding has begun to revitalize the submarine enterprise and infuse much-needed resiliency into domestic shipbuilding. The Submarine Industrial Base, now comprised of **2,645 first-tier suppliers** across **47 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 **\$5B** has been appropriated and authorized to reconstitute the submarine industrial base (FY18–FY25), benefiting **260 suppliers in 33 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 increased by 67% for the Columbia and 31% for the Virginia over the past 2 years
- Enabling approximately **6 million man-hours** of annual large-scale fabrication to be outsourced to the supply base
- **183 projects** expanding capability and capacity in critical areas such as large structural fabrication, valves, fittings, castings, forgings, and mechanical items
- **32 projects** developing alternative/second sources for critical components that are currently either single or sole source

Efforts to revitalize the nation's submarine workforce are yielding measurable progress; however, sustained focus and investment nationwide remain essential. At the two submarine shipbuilders alone, more than 12,000 new employees have been hired and trained through Connecticut and Rhode Island workforce pipelines at General Dynamics Electric Boat, and more than 10,000 new employees have been hired and trained at HII Newport News Shipbuilding over the past decade.

While this funding has made measurable differences within submarine production, continued investment is needed. FY27 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.