

March 3, 2015

TO: Submarine Suppliers

FROM: James I. Jelinek, Co-Chair
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Welcome to the Submarine Industrial Base Council's 24th annual Supplier Days. We want to thank you for your ongoing support. Your participation in Supplier Days and throughout the year helps ensure that our elected representatives understand the importance and value of submarines and the submarine industrial base.

As we prepare to engage Congress on the FY16 Defense budget, we are coming off another successful year for submarine programs. The FY15 omnibus spending bill supported the SIBC's submarine program priorities.

It is crucial that every member of Congress understand the importance of our nation's submarine programs and that the requests outlined below support both national and economic security, with the submarine industrial base providing thousands of high-quality jobs across the country. We must ask Congress to:

- ***Support funding for OHIO Replacement development.*** The Ohio-class SSBNs are the nation's most survivable and secure nuclear deterrent. The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert, has called the OHIO Replacement "the top priority program for the Navy." Authorizing \$1.391 billion in DOD funding and \$187 million in DOE funding in FY16 for OHIO Replacement development will support FY21 construction start, mitigate risk to the industrial base, and provide stability to reduce program costs.
- ***Support funding to continue procurement of two Virginia-class submarines per year.*** Authorizing the FY16 funding of \$3.346 billion for two Virginia-class submarines and advance procurement of \$1.994 billion will ensure that we can continue building two Virginia-class submarines per year which is essential to sustain efficiencies and ensure our nation's security and continued undersea dominance.
- ***Support funding for development of the Virginia Payload Module (VPM).*** As the total number of U.S. attack submarines reaches a low point and our SSGNs retire, submarine strike capacity will drop by 60 percent. Adding VPMs to future Virginia-class submarines is a cost-effective and innovative way to mitigate this undersea strike gap. Funding of \$168 million in FY16 is needed to continue development of the VPM.

Thank you again for participating in this year's Supplier Days. Your time and effort make a real difference and are greatly appreciated.