

February 27, 2019

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 submarine program issues. Note that due to the delayed FY20 defense budget request, these submarine program budget requests are based on FY20 budget plans in last year's FY19 budget and will be updated if the FY20 budget plans are significantly different.

**Support Navy funding of \$2 Billion (\$547M in RDT&E, \$1.453B in SCN) and DOE funding of \$76 Million in FY20 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, 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 Navy SCN Advanced Procurement Funding of \$2.770B, Full Funding of \$4.381B for two Virginia Class submarines and Navy RDT&E funding of \$119M for future Virginia Class submarine upgrade in FY20.**

Virginia Class attack submarine funding is critical to maintain program cost, schedule and design improvements while providing future capabilities to the fleet. This ensures that we can 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.

**We request an additional \$175 Million be added to the FY20 Navy SCN, Columbia Class Submarine Advance Procurement Funding for Supplier Development.**

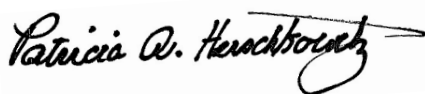
This additional funding will enable the shipbuilders to place material orders and help the nuclear shipbuilding supply base with capital investments, adding additional resiliency and creating multiple suppliers for critical components. The nuclear shipbuilding industrial base is ramping up production capacity to support the increased demand associated with the Navy shipbuilding plan. Improved capacity in the current industrial base reduces risk to the Columbia and Virginia Class submarine programs. Supplier development funding must continue because of the time necessary to add sustainable capacity and capability to the supply base and qualify new suppliers to perform this 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 help keep America safe today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,



James I. Jelinek  
Co-Chair, SIBC



Patricia Herschkowitz  
Co-Chair, SIBC



Keith Macdowall  
Co-Chair, SIBC