



THE SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE COUNCIL

March 8, 2022

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 thousands of companies in nearly all 50 states and employs tens of thousands of highly skilled American workers. For FY23, we request your support for three critical submarine program issues:

Navy funding for Columbia Class RDT&E, SCN and DOE funding in FY23 to continue Columbia Class development and construction.

Columbia Class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program is the Defense Department's #1 priority. SSBNs carry ~70% of the U.S. strategic arsenal as the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad. Construction of the first Columbia Class submarine officially began in October 2020 with the most mature submarine design in our Navy's shipbuilding history. It is critical to maintain full funding for the program to reduce risk of construction delays and prevent a gap in U.S. deterrent capabilities when the Ohio Class SSBNs begin to retire. The first Columbia Class SSBN is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2027 to make her first strategic deterrent patrol in 2030.

Navy funding for Virginia Class RDT&E and SCN in FY23 to maintain the two attack submarine (SSN) annual build rate.

The U.S. currently has 50 fast attack submarines (SSNs) including 20 Virginia Class SSNs. The recent Long Range Navy Shipbuilding Plan, released in June 2021, calls for at least 72 SSNs by 2045. It is critical the nation maintains at least a 2 submarine per year build rate for the Virginia Class program to support the nation's submarine requirements and continued undersea dominance. Newer Block V submarines include upgrades to combat threats. Further, the Virginia Payload Module (VPM) adds 28 additional launch canisters per boat, which will be introduced on the second submarine in Block V and included on all follow-on submarines in the Block.

Additional \$130 Million in FY23 Navy SCN, Columbia Class Submarine Advance Procurement Funding for Supplier Base Reconstitution.

Submarines have unique requirements of stealth, endurance, and survivability which have no commercial equivalency. This requires a robust industrial base with unique capabilities. However, the submarine industrial base has lost thousands of suppliers since the Cold War and must expand. Funding is still needed for the ramp-up of additional capability and capacity in order to reduce the risk to both the Columbia and Virginia programs. Increased FY23 funding will allow investment in unique equipment, facilities, and tooling for all levels in the supply chain; qualify multiple suppliers for critical components to add resiliency, competition, and capacity; and provide workforce training, qualification opportunities, and educational tools to suppliers.

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,

Steven Dobos
Co-Chair, SIBC

Patricia Herschkowitz
Co-Chair, SIBC

Keith Macdowall
Co-Chair, SIBC