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Joe Courtney

Congress of the United States

2nd District, Connecticut

September 6, 2007

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The Honorable Chet Edwards
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
H-143 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Edwards:

As you begin to work with your Senate counterparts in conference on the Fiscal Year 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill (H.R. 2642), I write to request your support for providing \$11.9 million in military construction funding for a Waterfront Operations project at Naval Submarine Base New London.

As you and I have discussed on several occasions, improving the infrastructure at Subase New London is critical to ensuring that the base is well position to serve the needs of its submarines and Sailors - now and in the future. Subase New London's top military construction priority this year is the refurbishment of their Waterfront Operations Facility (P-402), which will house critical maintenance and administrative functions at the base's waterfront. While authorized in the FY2007 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 109-364) and funded in the FY2007 House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill (H.R. 5385), this project - like many others - was not included in the final FY2007 Continuing Funding Resolution (P.L. 110-5).

Today, the Senate passed their version of H.R. 2642, which includes a provision championed by my colleagues Senators Dodd and Lieberman to provide \$11.9 million for this important project at Subase New London. While I understand the fiscal constraints which prevented your subcommittee from supporting my request on behalf of the Waterfront Operations Facility in the House bill, I respectfully request your support for maintaining the Senate provision in conference negotiations. I know you face tight fiscal limitations in these negotiations and would greatly appreciate any support you can provide to this critical project.

Thank you, as always, for the time you have taken to discuss this project and other critical priorities at Subase New London. I appreciate your experience and counsel, and look forward to continuing to work with you to support the base.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress