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August 23, 2007

The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Admiral Mike Mullen
Chief of Naval Operations
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Dear Secretary Winter and Admiral Mullen:

As you consider your military construction priorities in the Navy's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request, I respectfully urge your support for Project 464, the replacement of Pier 31 at Naval Submarine Base New London.

The existing pier is currently 33 years old and was designed for Sturgeon class attack submarine (SSN 637). As such, the pier is not right-sized for the Los Angeles class (SSN 688) or Virginia class (SSN 774) submarines that provide the core of our attack submarine fleet. Pier operations are currently limited by its narrow and inadequate size, and any crane usage blocks its entire width. Replacement parts are not available for its antiquated electrical support equipment, and the piles are severely eroded to the point of rendering the pier unusable in submarine support operations.

The new pier, once completed, will enhance submarine support operations at the base's waterfront by providing the size and space necessary to allow for simultaneous work on both sides and the clearance necessary for fire protection and other support equipment. Replacement of this pier is necessary to ensure that Subase New London continues to be able to fully carry out its mission of supporting the modern submarines of the Atlantic submarine fleet.

It is my understanding that this program is currently programmed in the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) for execution in 2009. To this end, I respectfully urge your support in including the military construction funding necessary to enact this important project in your FY2009 budget request for the United States Navy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to continuing to work with you to secure funding for this critical project and other future improvements at Subase New London to support its mission, Sailors and their families.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress