

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Congressman Joe Courtney today applauded President Obama’s nomination of Vice Adm. John Richardson to be the new director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Richardson is currently serving as commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and commander, Allied Submarine Command, Norfolk, Va. He would replace Adm. Kirkland Donald.

“Admiral Richardson is an outstanding choice for this critical position,” **said Congressman Courtney.** “He is an experienced, qualified submariner with a solid perspective of our country’s needs. Admiral Richardson will provide exactly the kind of leadership we need at a time of strategic change. Admiral Kirkland Donald created a huge legacy with his sterling record, and a grateful nation thanks him for his service. John Richardson's selection ensures that Adm. Donald's work will move forward.”

Congressman Courtney is the sole member of the Connecticut Congressional delegation to sit on the House Armed Services Committee. He is a member of the Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the U.S. Navy, and he is the co-chairman of the House Shipbuilding Caucus.

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