

WASHINGTON, DC — Today during a press conference call with reporters, Congressman Joe Courtney welcomed President Obama's proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Department of Defense budget request, which upholds the Connecticut lawmaker's effort to begin building two submarines per year beginning this coming October.

The budget includes \$5.4 billion in funding for the *Virginia-class* attack submarine program, including \$3.4 billion to build two submarines in 2011, and advanced funding to prepare to build two each in 2012 and 2013. This is the first time since the late-1980s that two submarines were funded in the same budget, when Electric Boat was building Los Angeles class submarines.

"Since entering Congress, I have fought to increase submarine production in order to ensure that we meet the needs of our nation's security both now and in the future," Courtney said. "I am proud that the President's budget reflects this effort and provides the funding necessary to build two submarines a year starting in 2011. In a tight budget environment, this is a clear reflection not only of the tremendous job that the Electric Boat workforce has done in delivering new submarines ahead of schedule and below budget, but the central role that submarines will continue to play in our overall defense strategy."

In 2007, Congressman Courtney secured \$588 million in advanced procurement funding to increase submarine production to two a year starting in 2011, rather than 2012 as then planned by the Navy. Although the Virginia class submarine program was originally slated to ramp up to two a year in 2002, that milestone was pushed further into the future by successive budgets, eventually settling at 2012 before Congressman Courtney's successful efforts to reverse that trend.

The budget also includes significant investment in the next generation of SSBN submarines, which are being designed by Electric Boat. The program will begin the replacement of the aging *Ohio-class* submarines.

"The SSBN is, and will continue to be, a central element of our nation's strategic deterrent policy," said Courtney. "Electric Boat designers and engineers are already hard at work developing the replacement of our aging fleet of Ohio-class SSBNs, leveraging their decades of skill and experience into this new submarine. There are many challenges head for this critical program, and I will continue to work closely with key leaders in Congress and the Navy to advocate for it."

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) was also released Monday with the budget. [Click here to download final QDR](#)

. The (QDR) is completed at the start of every new administration and provides the overall framework for the national security and defense budgeting priorities for the next four years. The QDR release today reflects the central role the attack submarine plays in our national security.

The QDR continues to reflect the growing investment in military development in China and other nations, especially in the realm of submarines.