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Joe Courtney Congress of the United States 2nd District. Connecticut

March 28, 2019

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The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz Chairwoman Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, & Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations **HVC-227 Capitol Building** Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter Ranking Member Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, & Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz and Ranking Member Carter:

I write today in strong support of the requested funding level of \$72.26 million for the Pier 32 construction project at SUBASE New London, Connecticut.

As the United States Navy grows to 355 ships in the coming decades, ensuring that the ports at which they are based have adequate mooring space is a critical and complimentary effort to the shipbuilding efforts I oversee as Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

Our submarine force will rapidly retire Los Angeles-class submarines in the 2020s, underscoring the importance of ensuring that our infrastructure is compatible with a force increasingly made up of new Virginia-class submarines. The existing Pier 32 at SUBASE New London is inadequate to fully support a Virginia-class submarine. The planned design for the replacement Pier 32 will be longer and wider than existing piers, allowing adequate space for Virginia-class submarines and for vehicle traffic to traverse the pier more safely. The pier will also be raised compared to other neighboring piers, appropriately accounting for future sea level rise and ensuring its long-term usability.

Thank you, as always, for your strong support for military construction as a whole, including important priorities such as this pier construction. We recognize the fiscal challenges that face the budget process and appreciate your ongoing work to make the most of our government's limited resources. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY

Member of Congress