

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin bipartisan discussion on Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations packages, we request that you include an additional \$25,000,000 in the FY24 defense appropriations bill in Navy RDT&E to pursue innovative research and manufacturing partnerships between academia and industry. Undersea dominance is an enduring capability foundational to our national defense – routinely articulated by our chief military officers and service secretaries responsible for maintaining our undersea advantage.

As industry responds to the increase production demanded by the Navy, the industrial base faces several challenges, including growing the workforce and developing mature designs for undersea technologies. To meet these challenges, it is critical that our nation's Navy, industry, and academia immediately strengthen their bonds in longer range research projects that will address desired advanced capabilities, cutting-edge materials, and improved manufacturing techniques.

We are already seeing positive momentum toward this goal, best demonstrated by continued support for the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology (NIUVT). As a partnership between the University of Connecticut, the University of Rhode Island, and General Dynamics Electric Boat, NIUVT enhanced U.S. superiority in the undersea domain in multiple ways. These include conducting research on undersea vehicle technologies, accelerating technology transition to the shipbuilding industry, and supporting workforce development expansion efforts through Navy-focused STEM education opportunities and advanced degree certifications.

To that end, we request additional funding for this program and the inclusion of the following report language:

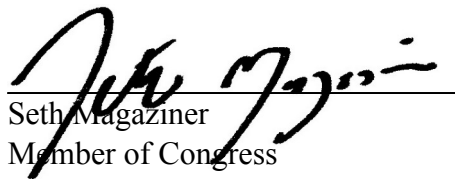
Research and Workforce Partnerships for Submarine and Undersea Vehicle Programs – To continue to build strong partnerships among Navy research labs, academia, and industry, the Committee provides \$25,000,000. The Navy shall closely coordinate this effort with its industrial base partners to ensure that funded research projects are relevant to specific engineering and manufacturing needs, as well as defined systems capabilities. The Committee expects the Navy to develop a long-term approach to leverage the growing capabilities of such partners to provide innovative research, development, and testing services in critical areas such as advanced materials, shock and vibration, additive manufacturing and non-nuclear power systems to industry to help reduce development and manufacturing backlogs.

We thank you for your continued commitment to the men and women in our undersea force and the professionals who support their global missions and look forward to continuing to work with you on this important matter.

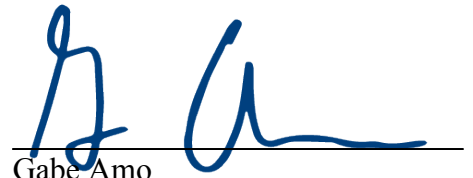
Sincerely,



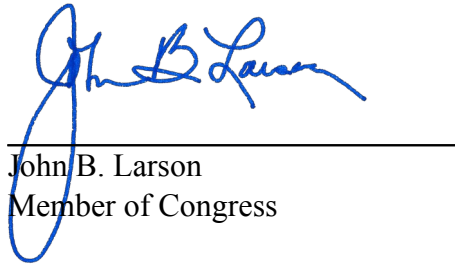
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



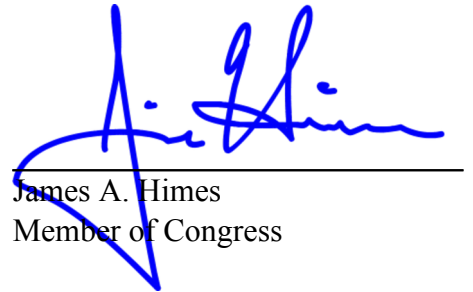
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



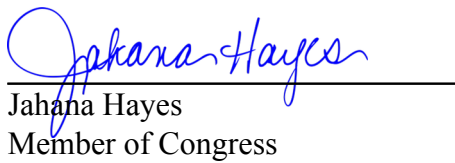
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress