

Ranking Member Courtney Secures Provisions to Bolster Shipbuilding, Sealift, Airlift in Final FY24 National Defense Authorization Act

Background:

As the Ranking Member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, Rep. Courtney helped secure key priorities to bolster shipbuilding, sealift, and airlift in the final, negotiated version of the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act.

Shipbuilding—Following the subcommittee's bipartisan work to examine shipbuilding industrial capacity and Navy force structure requirements, the bill as negotiated authorizes 10 battle force ships and the authority for the Navy to purchase up to 13 submarines in the next block of Virginia-class submarines:

- 1st funding increment for second boat in Columbia program
- 2 Virginia-class submarines
- 2 DDG 51 destroyers
- 2 guided missile frigates
- 1 LPD
- 1 T-AO fleet oiler
- 1 Submarine Tender

Sealift and Maritime – the bill includes several Courtney-led provisions to prioritize the recapitalization and expansion of critical sealift capabilities:

- Used Sealift Market Assessment – the bill requires the Navy to provide an updated report assessing the viability of the market for foreign-built used sealift ships for accuracy and transparency into the availability of foreign vessels.
- Domestic Design and Construction Program – the bill continues Rep. Courtney's efforts in the FY23 NDAA to establish a domestic new build sealift construction program. Specifically, Seapower Ranking Member Courtney and Chair Trent Kelly's bipartisan provision was included to push the DOD and MARAD to move forward on this requirement and withhold funds from the Secretary of the Navy until an acquisition plan is submitted on the construction of new sealift vessels.
- National Maritime Strategy – the bill retains Rep. Courtney's effort to authorize \$2 million to support the Maritime Administration's efforts to implement a National Maritime Strategy as required by the FY23 NDAA.

Aircraft and Projection Forces Capabilities:

- B-21 Raider – fully authorizes the budget request of \$2.3 billion to support the bomber modernization program.
- KC-46A – fully authorizes the budget request of 15 air refueling tankers for the United States Air Force, powered by Pratt and Whitney engines.