

Ranking Member Courtney Secures Key Priorities for Virginia Class Submarine Program, New England Defense Industry, and Undersea Supremacy

FY25 Committee-Passed National Defense Authorization Act

Background:

As the Ranking Member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, Rep. Courtney led the effort to reverse the Navy's request to cut procurement of a Virginia Class submarine, while also advancing provisions to support New England's defense industry and U.S. sea and air supremacy.

Jump to:

- [Virginia Class Submarine Program](#)
- [Columbia Class Submarine Program](#)
- [Eastern Connecticut Navy Priorities](#)
- [Eastern Connecticut Aerospace Priorities](#)
- [Supporting Eastern Connecticut's Students and Schools](#)
- [Improving Quality of Life for Soldiers and Families](#)
- [Seapower and Projection Forces Provisions](#)

Resources:

- [Memo](#): State of the Submarine Industrial Base
- [Hearing](#): Seapower & Projection Forces Subcommittee Navy FY25 Budget & Posture Hearing
- [Hearing](#): Full Committee Navy FY25 Budget & Posture Hearing

Virginia Class Submarine Program:

- \$1 billion in incremental funding authority for a second Virginia Class submarine, restoring the two-per-year procurement rate and allowing the Navy to contract for two submarines in FY25 ([see Section 1014](#)).
- \$3.72 billion for Advance Procurement of long-lead time items for future Virginia Class submarines.
- Requires the Secretary of the Navy to brief Members of the House Armed Services Committee by February 1, 2025 on how the Navy plans to mitigate the impact to suppliers of reducing the amount of Advance Procurement in future budgets following posture hearings where the Navy confirmed additional AP funding in FY25 request will be consumed by future hulls ([see page 60](#)).
- The restoration of the two-per-year procurement rate follows Courtney's months-long advocacy
 - [January 18](#): Courtney, Armed Services leaders express support for maintaining two-per-year Virginia Class submarine procurement
 - [February 12](#): International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers urge President Biden to prioritize consistent Virginia Class funding
 - [February 22](#): Metal Trades Department of AFL CIO urge President to sustain consistent funding for two Virginia Class submarines
 - [March 11](#): Courtney responds to Navy's FY25 shipbuilding request
 - [April 16](#): Courtney sends memo to Armed Services colleagues on the state of the submarine industrial base, FY25 procurement
 - [April 17](#): At Seapower Subcommittee hearing, Courtney makes clear procurement is king
 - [April 17](#): Courtney highlights steady momentum across the submarine industrial base at Seapower Subcommittee hearing
 - [April 30](#): Courtney raised concerns to Secretary Austin on consequences of Virginia Class instability at Armed Services Committee hearing
 - [May 1](#): Courtney leads 120 bipartisan lawmakers in sending resounding message to Appropriators, Navy
 - [May 1](#): Courtney stresses importance of maintaining steady Virginia Class procurement to Secretary Del Toro at Armed Services Committee hearing.

Columbia Class Submarine Program

- \$3.34 billion for the second increment of funding for construction of the USS Wisconsin – the second boat in the Columbia Class program.
- \$6.22 billion for Advance Procurement of long-lead time materials, including \$2 billion for the construction portion of the submarine industrial base enterprise to increase capacity at Electric Boat and the nationwide industrial base.

Eastern Connecticut Navy Priorities

- Authorizes over \$1.6 billion in research and development for future submarine capabilities, including \$196.6 million for future technology in the Columbia Class program, \$280.8 million to develop the next block of Virginia Class submarines, and \$298.8 million for SSN(X), the planned future follow-on to the Virginia Class program. These efforts are critical to sustaining the health of the design and engineering workforce at Electric Boat.
- \$7 million increase above the FY25 budget to continue efforts to improve low speed dynamic maneuverability for the next block of Virginia Class submarines, like those currently underway at Progeny Systems in Groton.
- \$10 million increase for continued development and operational testing of uncrewed remote acoustic systems, which will help the Navy evaluate existing off-the-shelf platforms, like those developed at Groton's Thayer Mahan.

- \$2.5 million above the FY25 budget request, a Courtney-priority to support Navy partnerships with academic institutions conducting research on undersea capabilities, such as the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology at the University of Connecticut.
- A report to improve the accuracy of Federal Wage Survey data for DOD civilian employees like those at Naval Submarine Base New London.

Connecticut Aerospace Priorities

- \$5 million increase above the budget request for continued development of uncrewed aerial systems to enhance the DOD's logistics and mobility enterprise, like those underway at Kaman Aerospace in Bloomfield, CT.
- \$709 million for 25 UH-60M Blackhawks, made at Sikorsky.
- \$25 million for Blackhawk Block II Modernization, which will help sustain the engineering and design workforce at Sikorsky for work on the next fleet of Blackhawk helicopters.
- \$2.07 billion for 19 CH-53Ks, built at Sikorsky.
- A Courtney-authored provision to provide multiyear procurement authority for the CH-53K program to provide demand signal and industrial base stability for the workforce at Sikorsky.
- \$527 million for F135 Engine Core Upgrade development across Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, a key engineering program for the F-35 engine underway at Pratt & Whitney.

Supporting Eastern Connecticut's Students and Schools

- \$70 million increase for the Department of Defense's Impact Aid Program
 - \$50 million in supplemental DOD Impact Aid
 - \$20 million for children with disabilities

Improving Quality of Life for Soldiers and Families

- *To view a fact sheet on quality of life provisions, [click here.](#)*

Seapower and Projection Forces Provisions

Shipbuilding

The FY25 NDAA authorizes procurement of 6 battle force ships:

- 2nd increment of funding for construction of the USS Wisconsin, the second boat in the Columbia Class program
- 2 Virginia Class submarines
- 2 DDG 51 destroyers
- 1 LPD Flight II
- 1 Medium Landing Ship

Sealift

- Builds on Rep. Courtney's provision in the FY23 NDAA to authorize a 10-ship new build sealift program for DOD requirements.
- In FY24, Rep. Courtney secured \$12 million for the Maritime Administration to carry out the design of vessels for this program.
- The FY25 NDAA requires the Navy to support the Department of Transportation and Maritime Administration entering into a contract using the vessel construction manager contracting method for construction to begin in FY25.
- \$200 million above the budget request for construction of the lead ship in this program

30 Year Shipbuilding Plan

- Requires the Navy to be consistent in the first 10-year planning window of the annual 30 Year SBP
- The requirement to adhere to the programmed procurement within a 10-year window will provide industrial base certainty, and give industry the demand signal they need to make capital investments and increase capacity in response to the Navy's planned requirements.

Maritime Security Program

- Reauthorizes the program through 2040 and incrementally increases the stipend, providing industry incentives to join the program for availability of military useful merchant ships in support of DOD sealift requirements.

Tanker Security Program

- Extends the program's authorization through 2040, which Rep. Courtney established in the FY21 NDAA, to provide demand signal for industry to competitively operate for the transport of liquid fuel products for the DOD.