

Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO



Office of
Ed Jones
President
ejones@metaltrades.org

Executive Council

James T. Callahan, IUOE
First Vice President

Eric Dean, IWINTL
Second Vice President

Mark McManus, UA
Third Vice President

James A Williams, Jr., IUPAT
Fourth Vice President

Terry Larkin, HFIWA
Fifth Vice President

Kenneth Cooper, IBEW
Sixth Vice President

Kevin Sexton, OPCMIA
Seventh Vice President

Brent Booker, LIUNA
Eighth Vice President

Michael Coleman, SMART
Ninth Vice President

Warren Fairley, IBB
Tenth Vice President

Brian Bryant, IAMAW
Eleventh Vice President

815 Black Lives
Matter Plaza
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202-508-3705
www.metaltrades.org

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the seventeen National and International Unions affiliated with the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, representing the employees at the U.S. Naval public and private shipyards, I strongly urge you to sustain and prioritize consistent funding for two Virginia-class submarines in the Fiscal Year (FY) 25 budget and beyond. Without consistent funding for the Virginia-Class submarines, our Navy risks not having the critical resources necessary to maintain our undersea superiority as outlined in the FY 2024 30-Year Shipbuilding plan. These submarines allow our Navy to maintain its global superiority outlined in the FY 2024 30-Year Shipbuilding plan. Any lapse in funding would put the domestic shipbuilding industrial base at risk and could shrink or irreparably harm the already small pool of qualified suppliers who employ and support tens of thousands of highly skilled union jobs in the United States.

The domestic shipbuilding industrial base is already experiencing labor shortages and supply chain disruptions. Deviation from projected procurement quantities will cause further instability as the nationwide industrial base and suppliers nationwide seek to expand capacity on demand forecasted by the Department of Defense. The U.S. must maintain its partnerships with the small domestic shipbuilding community to avoid the further erosion of this important business sector. Funding two VA-class submarines, built by the union men and women at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, and Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Virginia, will help sustain those partnerships. That investment is necessary to maintain and grow the workforce needed to build and promote this important industry.

Our U.S. Navy servicemembers deserve a strong and capable fleet to effectively sustain global stability. Failure by this Administration to consistently fund the VA-class could put their mission in jeopardy.

Again, on behalf of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, and its affiliated National and International Unions, and the thousands of shipbuilders we represent, I urge you to include full funding for two VA-class submarines in the FY 25 budget.

Sincerely,

Ed Jones,
President