

**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



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Area Code 301-967-4500

OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the largest defense union in the United States, **I strongly urge you to support and prioritize consistent funding for two Virginia-Class submarines per year in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget and beyond.** Consistent funding for two Virginia-class submarines per year will help provide the Navy with the resources it needs to maintain their superiority at sea as outlined in the Navy's FY 2024 30-Year Shipbuilding plan, bolster our domestic shipbuilding industrial base, and support tens of thousands of high-quality union jobs in the U.S. shipbuilding industry.

Our men and women in uniform rely on a strong and capable fleet of Virginia-class attack submarines to safely and effectively promote stability throughout the globe. As part of this mission, thousands of IAMAW and other Metal Trade Council union members proudly build these world-class submarines at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut and Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Virginia. These dedicated workers devote their lives to acquiring and implementing the peerless skill needed to produce these exceptional vessels. Additionally, the VA-class submarine program provides for tens of thousands of high-skilled, high-quality union jobs across the domestic shipbuilding supply chain.

Consistent funding for two VA-class submarines per-year is absolutely necessary to promote the long-term health of the domestic shipbuilding industrial base and the workforce on which it relies. This industry cannot thrive as a feast-or-famine endeavor. A clear market signal of consistent two-per-year funding is absolutely vital to maintain and grow the necessary highly-skilled workforce and promote the industry partnerships needed to ensure success in efficient submarine production. Furthermore, proper funding of this program will continue to have positive spillover effects which act to bolster and grow our industrial base throughout domestic shipbuilding and manufacturing industries as we look to meet your Administration's prudent goal to "make more in America". By utilizing and growing our industrial capacity while revitalizing our fleet of attack submarines, we will strengthen supply chains and foster the high-skilled workforce needed for success across domestic manufacturing industries.

**On behalf of the thousands of Machinists Union members proudly building VA-class submarines and working in the shipbuilding industry across the United States, I urge you to support full funding for two Virginia-class submarines per year in your FY 2025 budget and beyond.**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this vitally important issue, please contact IAMAW National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Bryant", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Bryant  
IAM International President