

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2023

The Honorable John Carter  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
HT-2 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
270 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Carter and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz,

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I write to request your full support for the President's budget request of \$322 million for two military construction projects at Naval Submarine Base New London in Connecticut. With your continued support, Naval Submarine Base New London has undergone significant facility recapitalization and installation modernization, and I urge you to continue prioritizing continued development for the United States Navy's first submarine base.

## ***Submarine Pier 31 Extension***

I strongly request that you support the proposed construction project of \$112.5 million for an extension and renovation of Pier 31. The current length of the pier is not suitable for longer Block V Virginia-class submarines that include the new Virginia Payload Module (VPM) missile system. Adequate, efficient, and secured facilities are required to provide berthing, logistics, and maintenance support for current and future submarine operations.

Currently, Pier 31 cannot support Virginia-class submarines, as it is too short to meet modern pier standards for safety. Current standards for general purpose berthing required a larger safe zone for the submarine hull to allow for optimal spacing as to not damage the submarine's structure or the installation's facilities. If this project is not funded, submarines will continue to berth in unsafe conditions affecting mission readiness and potential harm to sailors. Naval Submarine Base New London is the homeport for the majority of the attack submarine fleet on the east coast, therefore, I urge that you fully support this project.

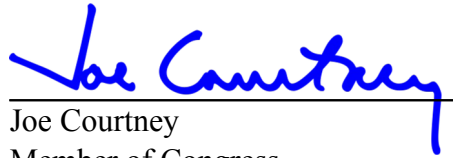
## ***Weapons Magazine & Ordnance Operations Facility***

I strongly request that you support \$219.2 million to construct a new weapons magazine and ordnance operations facility. A secure facility is needed for all ordnance at the installations following a June 2017 draft of the Navy's Submarine Forces Global Shore Infrastructure Plan (GSIP), which identified critical risk capability gaps for ordnance operations associated with the arrival of Block V Virginia-class submarines in 2025.

Currently, certain weapons magazines at the installation that were constructed over 50 years ago cannot support the efficient storage and handling of modern containerized weapons. Mitigation and work-around solutions have been in place until existing magazines can be recapitalized, but will not be sustainable once Block V Virginia-class submarines are homeported at the installation. If this project is not fully supported, the installation will only be allowed to use newer magazines, and will be unable to handle or store weapons, causing significant delays in loading and unloading weapons as the nearest alternate magazine is located in Yorktown, VA. Therefore, I strongly urge that you support this project.

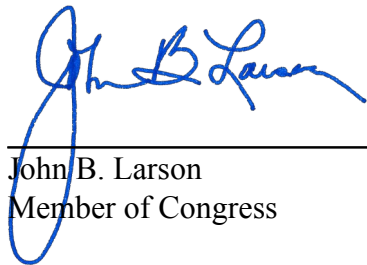
Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



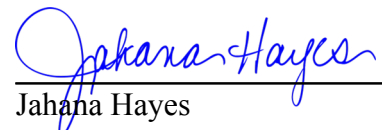
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



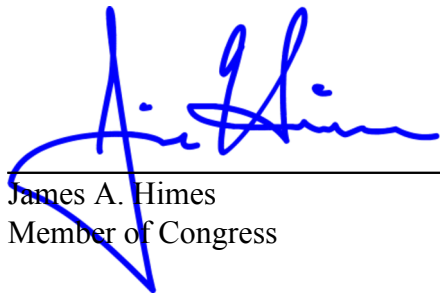
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress