

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you in support of the American naval shipbuilding industry, a strong component of our domestic manufacturing sector that depends on access to large quantities of the highest quality American-made steel.

As discussed at the most recent Congressional Steel Caucus hearing on March 29, 2017, aircraft carriers and other naval ships produced by our domestic shipbuilding industry are a vital element of our national defense. As threats to American interests continue to proliferate around the world, our nation increasingly relies on the inherent flexibility and capabilities of the United States Navy and its carrier strike groups comprised of an aircraft carrier, cruisers, destroyers, and submarines. That is why we strongly support proposals to increase our fleet size.

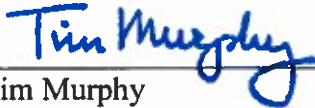
Currently, the production of one aircraft carrier every five years injects more than three billion dollars into our nation's economy and directly supports thousands of high-skilled jobs in 43 states and more than 300 congressional districts. Moreover, American steel producers provide \$265 million worth of steel for the building of a single carrier. By reducing the time between carrier starts from five years to less than four years, the Navy could much more easily procure two carriers at a time, using a multi-ship purchase approach thereby improving construction efficiencies and enabling economic ordering of equipment and materials for each ship, including the domestic steel used in armor plating and shipboard equipment.

Both the Virginia-Class Submarine (VCS) and DDG-51 destroyer programs currently benefit from multi-year procurement contracts allowing the Navy to buy two ships per year. These programs have seen substantial savings as a result of serial production and the inclusion of funding for economic order quantity purchases. Increasing procurement rates to three per year would again reduce their unit cost, and deliver those ships to the fleet more quickly. A heightened pace of procurement for these successful ship classes is absolutely essential to increasing the fleet's size, capability, and lethality. Such an effort will safeguard and bolster our domestic steel industry – a strategic national asset.

There is no doubt that as a nation we face difficult choices in order to strengthen the economic health of the defense industrial base. We are united in the belief that a healthy domestic steel industry and a strong domestic steel workforce are vital to our nation's naval shipbuilding industry, our national security, and our economic wellbeing.

We look forward to your response to this letter and hope to work with you to advance the domestic steel and shipbuilding industries. Should you have any questions, please contact the Senior Legislative Counsel for Congressman Tim Murphy, Samuel Spector at (202) 225-2301 or by email at [Samuel.Spector@mail.house.gov](mailto:Samuel.Spector@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for your consideration.



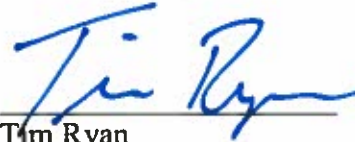
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Chairman  
Congressional Steel Caucus



Peter J. Visclosky  
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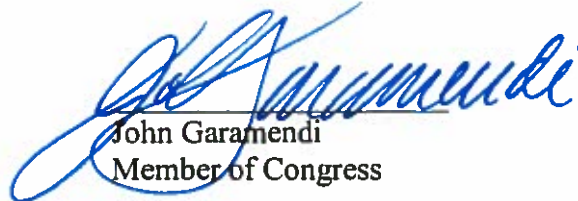
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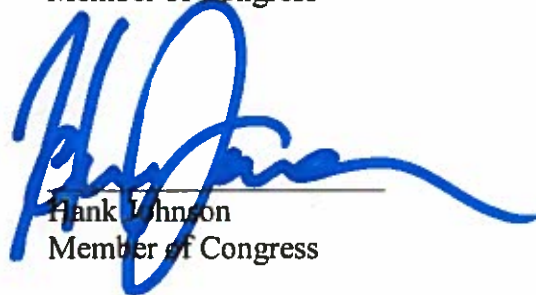
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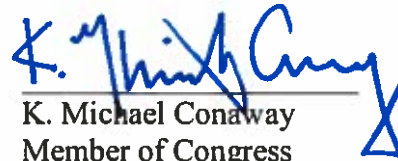
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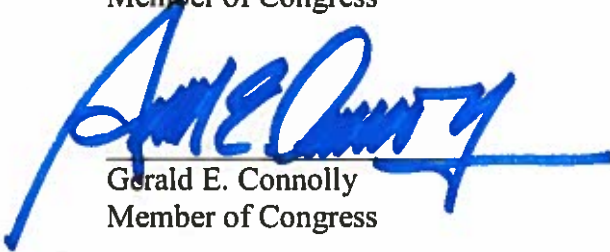
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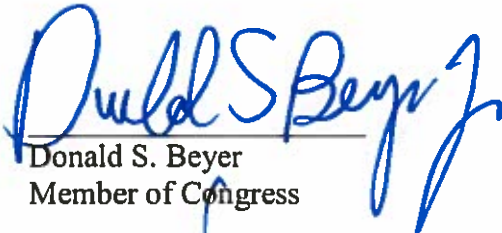
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