

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 25, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Young,

Thank you for your strong support of our submarine force, the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) trilateral partnership, and the nation's submarine industrial base. We write to request your particular attention to funding for submarine programs as we consider options and funding levels for fiscal year 2025.

The United States' submarine programs provide our nation an undersea advantage that is critical to our national security. Further, the eventual sale of at least two Virginia-class submarines to Australia as part of the AUKUS partnership will bolster our security structure in the Indo-Pacific, reassure partners and allies, and strengthen our relationships globally. For this assurance to be credible, our submarine programs must be supported with the full resources and careful oversight they need to progress on time and on cost.

We are especially grateful for the attention that has been given to investment in the nation's submarine industrial base over the last several years. Between 2018 and 2023, over \$2.3 billion has been invested in the submarine industrial base, and the supplemental enacted earlier this year included an additional \$3 billion. This infusion of capital has enabled suppliers from across the United States to hire, train, and retain the American workforce critical to a strong submarine industrial supplier base, while also allowing them to make capital investments that improve production capacity and efficiency.

While these historic investments have been key for strengthening the supplier base, we must also ensure U.S. shipyards are fully supported and able to make the overdue investments necessary to increase productivity, get on schedule, and meet demand for submarines over the short- and long-term. It is our understanding that over months of conversation Pentagon leadership, the Navy, and industry reached an agreement to maximize use of taxpayer funding for construction of the next tranche of Columbia-class and Virginia-class submarines – including by raising wages to attract and retain America's skilled and organized shipyard workforce, addressing rising costs, and advancing much-needed infrastructure investments, all to improve program reliability and schedule. Based on the information available so far, the Shipbuilder Accountability and Workforce Support (SAWS) agreement strikes us as a promising approach to ensure our submarine industrial base rises to the occasion, accelerates submarine production, and fully meets the critical and building demand on U.S. shipyards.

The current security environment requires commitment to bold initiatives, such as the AUKUS agreement, and the federal government must meet the moment with bold investments. The SAWS initiative presents an opportunity to do just that by investing in our nuclear-powered platforms, the highly-skilled, organized workforce that build them and bolstering our nation's security. We request that you give all due consideration to this initiative, while ensuring it includes the accountability and leverage measures necessary to ensure our federal investments in submarine production go as far as possible in getting these critical programs on track.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Chris Murphy
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator