

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

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Kenneth Braithwaite  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Braithwaite:

We write to express our concern and seek clarification regarding any official position the Navy has taken with regard to the use of subcontractors at Bath Iron Works (BIW).

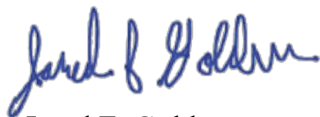
As you are aware, BIW has made use of subcontracting in recent months. We have significant concerns regarding the effect of subcontracting on the current BIW workforce, as well as its potential long-term impact on the recruitment and retention of Mainers to the shipbuilding industry.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request your response to the following questions:

1. Is the Navy pushing BIW or other private shipyards to adopt subcontracting?
2. What is the Navy's policy on providing direction or input on contract negotiations between a private employer and its workforce?

Your response to these questions by August 7, 2020 is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your service to our Navy and to our great nation.

Sincerely,



Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress