



**Jared Golden**  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District of Maine

July 25, 2020

Local S6, IAMAW District Lodge 4  
722 Washington Street  
Bath, ME 04530

Brothers and Sisters,

A little over a week ago, I joined many of you on the picket line and listened to your thoughts about this strike, the proposed contract, and your jobs at Bath Iron Works (BIW). It is clear that you want to return to the work of building ships for the Navy, a job you proudly perform with skill, but that your concerns regarding subcontracting and other proposed changes by BIW have yet to be addressed. Many of you expressed fears about a loss of skilled shipbuilders in Maine due to subcontracting at the yard, and about the need to protect a new generation of shipbuilders.

As skilled shipbuilders, you are a vital asset to America, and you deserve fair pay for a hard day's work and the healthcare and retirement benefits that are key to keeping the middle class life alive not only for you but also for the next generation of shipbuilders in Maine. That last point is critical: subcontracting may seem like a good solution to some people today, but you know the saying: "Good work ain't cheap, and cheap work ain't good." The Navy relies on you to build the best ships in the world, and BIW's competitive edge comes from the quality work that you deliver as skilled professionals.

Many of you have individually told me that you do the best work you can every day because the lives of the men and women who serve our country aboard these ships depend on the quality of your work. Thank you for that continued commitment to building the best ships for our Navy – our sailors deserve nothing less. Bath Built is Best Built.

In the days and weeks ahead, I will continue to work with S6 to support you on this picket line and to push for a successful resolution to this strike. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or my staff if we can be of any assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared F. Golden".

Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress