

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the largest defense union in the United States, **I strongly urge you to support full funding for procurement of two Virginia-Class submarines in Fiscal Year 2025 as you work to finalize Department of Defense Appropriations legislation for FY25.** The restoration of funding for this second submarine would provide the Navy with the resources it needs to continue rebuilding our nation's dwindling fleet of fast-attack submarines, bolster our domestic industrial base, and support thousands of high-quality jobs in the U.S. shipbuilding industry.

Our men and women in uniform rely on a strong and capable fleet of Virginia-class attack submarines to safely and effectively promote stability throughout the globe. As part of this mission, thousands of IAMAW and other Metal Trade Council union members proudly build these world-class submarines at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut and Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Virginia. These dedicated workers devote their lives to acquiring and implementing the peerless skill needed to produce these exceptional vessels. Additionally, the VA-class submarine program provides for tens of thousands of high-skilled, high-quality union jobs across the domestic shipbuilding supply chain.

Consistent funding for two VA-class submarines per year is necessary to promote the long-term health of the domestic shipbuilding industrial base and the workforce on which it relies. This industry cannot thrive as a feast-or-famine endeavor. A clear market signal of consistent two-per-year funding is absolutely vital to maintain and grow the necessary highly skilled workforce and promote the industry partnerships needed to ensure success in efficient submarine production. Furthermore, proper funding of this program will continue to have positive spillover effects which act to bolster and grow our industrial base throughout domestic shipbuilding and manufacturing industries as we as a nation look to rebuild the U.S. manufacturing sector across industries. By utilizing and growing our industrial capacity while

revitalizing our fleet of attack submarines, we will strengthen supply chains and foster the high-skilled workforce needed for success across domestic manufacturing.

We applaud the House Armed Services Community for prudently including language authorizing procurement of two Virginia-Class Submarines for FY25 in their committee-passed FY25 National Defense Authorization Act. **On behalf of the thousands of Machinists Union members proudly working in the shipbuilding industry across the United States, I urge you to support full funding for procurement of two Virginia-class submarines in FY 2025.**

If you have any questions, please contact National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Bryant
IAM International President