

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President,

Your immediate decision is critical to realize our mutual vision of expanding the Navy fleet and revitalizing commercial shipbuilding. The Biden administration did not have the business sense to pull this off – but you do.

If you act to implement the full Shipbuilder Accountability and Workforce Support (SAWS) proposal, you get:

- Maximum leverage to negotiate a \$100 billion deal on submarines, instead of splitting it into several negotiations.
- Frees more than \$20 billion that can be repurposed to support the activities of your Office of Shipbuilding.
- Gives a pay raise to 45,000 blue-collar shipbuilders.
- Return attack submarine production to 2 per year instead of the current rate of 1.2 submarines per year.
- SAWS will inject money quickly to help attract significant private investment from the U.S. and foreign sources.

The SAWS initiative is a solution backed by many in Congress, Secretary Hegseth, National Security Advisor Waltz, and top investors from the private sector, despite the Biden administration rejecting SAWS last year.

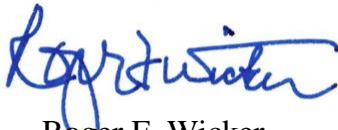
SAWS consolidates over \$100 billion in past and future submarine contracts into a coordinated negotiation. This proposal will maximize your leverage, allowing you to gain concessions from industry that would be unattainable through piecemeal approaches. By redirecting unspent funds, it delivers an immediate pay raise for 45,000 shipbuilders, accelerates nuclear submarine production, and frees \$5.7 billion from the last continuing resolution to support your Office of Shipbuilding. It will also help draw innovative tech firms into the maritime industrial base. A potential repayment of \$5 to \$8 billion arises only decades later if nuclear shipbuilding is shut down. This historical deal—the largest defense negotiation ever—will create a stronger Navy, a thriving workforce, and support the reindustrialization of America.

The Navy has awarded a new *Virginia*-class contract, but SAWS can still be implemented in its full form. Current contracts are faltering. Shipyards, strained by pre-COVID wage rates that are locked into current contracts, outdated equipment, and financial losses are slowing production. Submarine cost growth

threatens to consume two-thirds of the shipbuilding budget, risking our two *Virginia*-class and one *Columbia*-class per year goal and even our AUKUS commitment to Australia.

You can make SAWS a reality without any action from Congress. But your approval is needed now. We urge you to direct the Department of the Navy to implement SAWS immediately so that you can negotiate the largest and most historic shipbuilding deal ever.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Eric Schmitt
United States Senator



Jim Banks
United States Senator



Tim Sheehy
United States Senator

