

Thank you for taking your time to let Congress know how critical this issue is to our national defense and economy.

INSTRUCTIONS

This document is a letter template for you to mail to your members of Congress.

To find your Member of Congress, visit this link [CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT DATABASE](https://www.congress.gov/members)

INSERT on each letter: Date

 Member of Congress Name and Address

Company Name

 Signature Block

Copy and Paste, or add onto your Company Letterhead and Mail.

You may also FAX these letters or call your Representatives and Senators.

**WE HIGHLY ENCOURAGE PHONE CALLS!!!!**

{INSERT Date}

The Honorable {INSERT NAME}

{INSERT ADDRESS} Senate/House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator/Congressman {INSERT NAME}:

{INSERT Company Name} is writing this letter in support of the ship repair industry and Surface Fleet in Navy Ports across the Nation. The tens of thousands of Patriotic highly experienced, skilled trade personnel who maintain the strength of our Naval Fleet cannot be easily replaced if layoffs are driven by lack of defense supplemental requests and appropriations approval. As you are aware, the Nations private-sector ship repair companies have been an integral part of and close partner to the Navy in the maintenance and modernization of the conventional Surface Force Fleet located in every home Port in America. Our industry, which is a national security asset that comprises a large part of the Nation’s economy, now faces a critical junction regarding Navy funding. The lack of approval of the requested supplemental appropriation and defense appropriation bills will have a far reaching and devastating impact on the National economy, maritime business personnel and their families, and more importantly, a lasting, adverse impact on Navy Surface Force readiness.

The federal fiscal uncertainties resulting from the lack of approval of these two critical requirements would, in the current Continuing Budget Resolution environment, result in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in critical repairs for the Navy’s Surface Force Fleet. This was substantiated in a recent Department of Defense information paper, dated March 23, 2017 (Reference A), that provided guidance regarding impacts if a yearlong CR is enacted and the mid-year supplemental appropriation is not approved. The DOD policy guidance provided, indicated that the cancellation of 14 maintenance availabilities would be required. The cancellation of these availabilities would cause extensive ship repair layoffs across the Nation in all ports possessing repair capabilities.

The uncertainty and severity of impact is already causing negative economic ripples on companies like ours. To avoid this catastrophe, we seek your expeditious approval and passage of the 2017 National Defense and mid-year Supplemental Appropriation Bills. The long-term negative impact of operating under Continuing Budget Resolutions will have irreversible negative effects on National Defense readiness and the Nation’s private industry economic ship repair infrastructure.

Our entire workforce trains for years to become experts in the ship repair industry and takes great pride in the frontline support we provide to the preservation of our naval military might and in keeping our Navy at maximum readiness. Your support of this proud legacy and preservation of our Naval Defense is critical to the strength of our Nation.

Sincerely,

{INSERT SIGNATURE BLOCK}