

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2004

The Honorable Gordon R. England
Secretary of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary England:

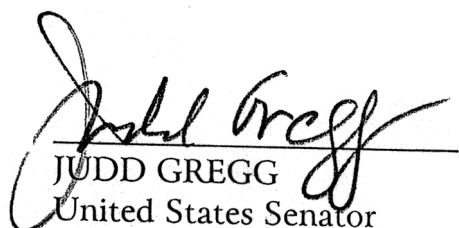
As you know, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is America's expert on nuclear submarine overhaul and maintenance and the only Naval shipyard with the full spectrum of submarine maintenance experience. It has completed 74 major overhauls on nuclear submarines, significantly more than any other shipyard. The workforce is highly skilled with unique and unparalleled talents that cannot be replicated in any other public or private shipyard. The Navy has recognized this excellence by designating Portsmouth as the lead shipyard for all Los Angeles Class submarine maintenance.

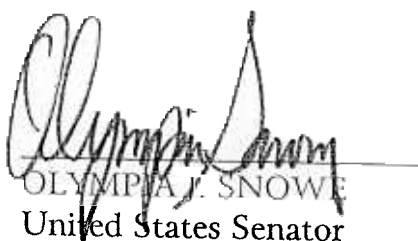
Portsmouth is also the premier performer in submarine overhauls among all public and private shipyards. Portsmouth holds the current cost and schedule performance records for Los Angeles Class submarine maintenance. In 2003, it delivered the USS Albuquerque back to the Navy a month early with a cost savings of \$16 million. In 2002, it delivered the USS Alexandria six weeks faster than any other shipyard performed on any other submarine.

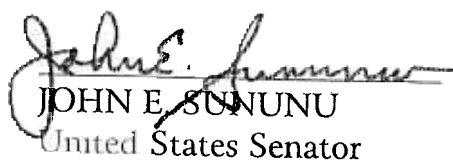
Therefore, it is with deep concern that we note that the Navy is planning to reduce Portsmouth's Los Angeles Class maintenance workload in the 2008-2020 time period. Leaving this expertise unused deprives the Navy of the highest quality maintenance work for these crucial submarines. We understand that the Navy can easily rely on Portsmouth for additional submarine work while shifting other classes of vessels among the remaining yards.

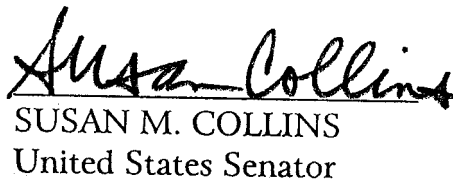
Accordingly, we ask that you develop a workload plan for our review that will take advantage of Portsmouth's expertise in maintaining submarines while continuing Portsmouth's workload rate at a level of no less than 600,000 man-days/year for the period 2008-2020. We would appreciate receiving this plan by May 7, 2004. Thank you for your attention to this request.

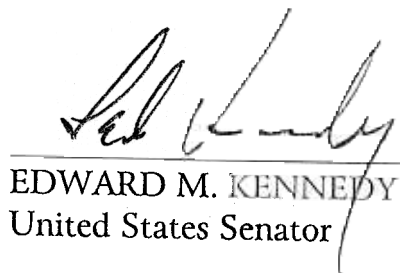
Sincerely,

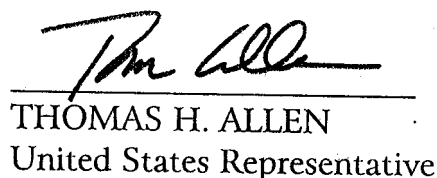

JUDD GREGG
United States Senator


OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator


JOHN E. SUNUNU
United States Senator

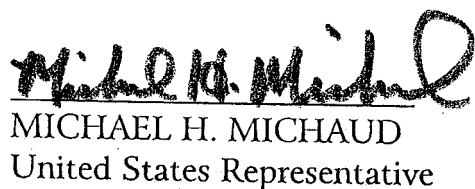

SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator

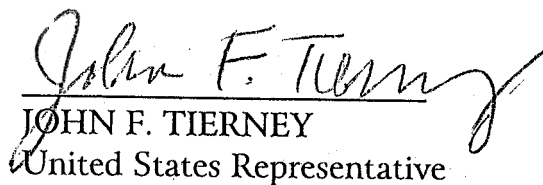

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
United States Senator


THOMAS H. ALLEN
United States Representative


JETHRO BRADLEY
United States Representative


CHARLES BASS
United States Representative


MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
United States Representative


JOHN F. TIERNEY
United States Representative

cc: ADM Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations