

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 7, 2005

The Honorable Gordon S. England
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary England:

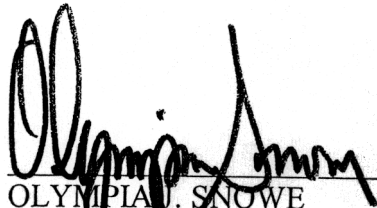
As you saw for yourself during your tour of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard this past August, it is clear that the shipyard team is in a class by themselves thanks to their schedule and cost performance metrics as well as the efficiencies they have gained through innovation. Recently, Navy leaders have said, "Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has distinguished itself as the premier submarine maintenance and modernization shipyard in the nation, bar none, public or private," and, "I am confident Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will continue to be a premier leading shipyard...".

During the recent change of command ceremony, the Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command noted that the Shipyard has completed six consecutive record setting major submarine availabilities. Previously, as part of NAVSEA and shipyard briefs, the Navy has provided us with detailed information regarding the workload at the various yards and the performance of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for each major type of availability: Engineering Refueling Overhauls, Depot Modernization Periods and Engineering Overhauls.

Therefore, we request you forward to us the schedule and cost performance metrics for every ERO and DMP completed at every yard performing such work, public or private, over the past ten years so we may accurately compare the performance of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard with each of the other yards. Because we understand that converting the actual cost of an availability performed at a mission funded shipyard to a Navy working capital funded (NWCF) cost is not trivial and in order to be able to compare "apples to apples," we ask that you provide actual total return costs in dollars and man-days using a normalized equivalent NWCF man-day rate for availabilities completed at mission funded facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.


Sincerely,



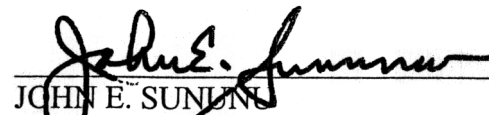
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator




JUDD GREGG
United States Senator



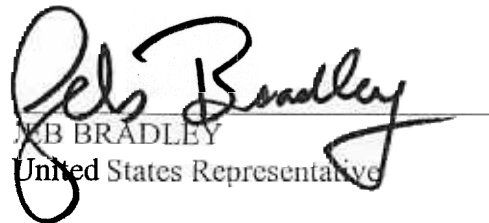
SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator



JOHN E. SUNUNU
United States Senator



THOMAS H. ALLEN
United States Representative



JEB BRADLEY
United States Representative