



November 3, 2011

The Honorable Buck McKeon
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon,

On behalf of the Aircraft Carrier Industrial Base Coalition, we thank you for your leadership and recent remarks at Newport News Shipbuilding in support of funding for the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier construction and maintenance program.

As you know, continued Congressional support for the U.S. Navy's aircraft carriers has significant implications for the defense of our nation, our economy and the continued health of our industrial base. Our businesses and hundreds of others are supplying vital components to these ships, and we need your help to protect the funding for these statements of national purpose.

The supply base for these magnificent aircraft carriers is immense. And that supply base has invested its own money in infrastructure, labor and training to prepare to support the Navy's planned procurement of aircraft carriers at one carrier every five years. A cut in funding for the program would result in a loss of jobs and significantly increased prices for the labor, material and components necessary to construct these vessels, and significant future cost increases to the American taxpayer.

Uninterrupted funding of the aircraft carrier program allows for improved planning and more effective control of overhead costs. Any disruptions in support would also threaten the ability of these companies to deliver the great quantities of specialized parts that carriers require. This would not only harm the defense industry, but would threaten our continued ability to build these ships.

Thank you again for your support of the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier construction and maintenance program and the industrial base.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance as you work to ensure that America's defense needs continue to be met.

Sincerely,

Rick Giannini
Chair, ACIBC
President and CEO
Milwaukee Valve Company

Darrell Grow
Vice-Chair, ACIBC
Chief Operating Officer
Ammcon Corporation