



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

JAN 17 2018

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wittman:

Thank you for your letter of December 20, 2017, expressing your interest in a two ship procurement of FORD Class aircraft carriers. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Mattis.

The Department of the Navy strives to find the most economical ways to procure our ships and weapon systems. Analysis of various shipbuilding programs have consistently shown that volume material buys and level-loading the shipbuilder and vendor base are proven practices that reduce shipbuilding program cost.

Additional time is needed for the Department to fully evaluate and best implement means to maximize savings opportunities in FORD Class aircraft carrier construction. In the meantime, the Navy is pursuing contracting actions necessary to continue fabrication in FY 2018 and preserve the delivery date of the CVN 80, while working with the shipbuilder to further mature the potential savings of a two ship procurement plan for the FORD Class.

A similar response has been sent to each of the signatories of your letter. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Spencer