



The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510-4502

September 7, 2017

Dear Ranking Member Leahy:

Thank you for sending your Legislative Correspondent, Charles Martin, to visit Newport News Shipbuilding during the August Congressional Recess.

As proud suppliers for U.S. Navy aircraft carrier construction and maintenance, we are delighted that Charles had the opportunity to tour the shipyard and discuss the aircraft carrier construction and maintenance program.

As you know, our two companies have been in an ongoing dialogue with your office about the aircraft carrier program. In March, we had the pleasure to discuss our legislative priorities with your military legislative aide, Sherman Patrick. Then in May, you gave Champlain Cable Corporation the opportunity to submit an appropriations request, and both Champlain Cable Corporation and Velan Valve contacted your office in July asking for your support of a multi-ship procurement plan.

As you return from your August Recess, we write to remind you of our companies' request for an additional \$520 million in Advance Procurement for the Carrier Replacement Program in the fiscal year 2018 authorization and appropriations process. We are concerned with the House of Representatives' version of the defense appropriations bill, which did not include language for the multi-ship buy for aircraft carriers.

This skilled workforce of men and women from Vermont and your community would greatly benefit from the accelerated build rate. A multi-ship purchase will send a clear signal to these companies: to invest in new equipment and technology, acquire raw materials in economic quantities, and hire more and train skilled workers.

Vermont's industrial base is committed to building U.S. Navy aircraft carriers at the lowest cost with the greatest efficiency. This is exactly what the multi-ship purchase approach does. It leverages potential efficiencies in the aircraft carrier industrial base to reduce construction costs on future *Ford*-class carriers, a critical objective given the fiscally constrained shipbuilding budget.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to watching your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



David Dexter
Champlain Cable Corporation



John Kohnowich
Velan Valve Corp.