Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2026

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith:

As negotiations for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) continue, we respectfully request that you retain Section 1121 that was secured in H.R. 8800 – prohibition on carrying out a hiring freeze, reduction in force, or hiring delay without cause at public shipyards of the Department of Defense.

The women and men of America's four public shipyards are essential to our national security, and there is strong bipartisan support in Congress to protect this workforce. This provision would put an end to the uncertainty that all of our public shipyards are facing – from Portsmouth to Norfolk and from Puget Sound to Pearl Harbor – and codify the Administration's own policy. It would prohibit the funds for the Department of Defense authorized for fiscal year 2027 from carrying out a hiring freeze at a public shipyard; carrying out a reduction in force at a public shipyard; or delaying without cause the filling of a vacant Federal civilian employee position at a public shipyard. Critically, this provision does not interfere with the Secretary of Defense's authority to manage the workforce in cases of routine misconduct or poor performance.

Coupled with similar policy secured in the Senate FY 2027 NDAA, this provision would ensure that we can recruit and retain skilled laborers, including engineers, mechanics, pipefitters, and welders, in order to meet the Navy's demand for maintenance and overhaul of nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to retain this crucial provision and protect our public shipyards.

Thank you for your leadership in national security and we continue to stand ready to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress