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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4602

March 27, 2013

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert
Chief of Naval Operations
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Mabus and Admiral Greenert,

We are writing today to follow up on your response dated February 22, 2013 regarding the potential cancellation of all 3rd and 4th quarter surface ship maintenance availabilities. With Congress' passage of H.R. 933, we request the Navy announce its plan to move ahead with previously scheduled ship maintenance availabilities.

These availabilities are crucial to the long term health and sustainability of the Navy surface fleet and the industry that supports it. We understand the fiscal pressures facing the Navy under sequestration and are looking for clarification of the Navy's plans now that Congress has passed H.R. 933. It is our understanding that by alleviating the restrictive nature of a continuing resolution, we would see restoration of the maintenance availabilities that were potentially subject to cancellation.

Your letter stated that "Fleet Commanders have been directed to notify contractors of the potential for cancellation, deferral, or de-scoping of private sector FY13 3rd and 4th quarter surface ship maintenance availabilities." We are concerned the Navy may choose to use some of its transfer latitude granted under the FY13 Department of Defense Appropriations to hedge future consequences of sequestration by going forward with cancellation in whole or part of 3rd and 4th quarter ship maintenance availabilities. This is not an acceptable solution for us or the taxpayers.

We appreciate your attention on this matter, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Rep. Scott Rigell (VA-2)

Rep. Steven Palazzo (MS-04)

Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-3)

Rep. Duncan Hunter (CA-50)

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