



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

March 2, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write this letter on behalf of the State of Wisconsin and in support of Fincantieri Marinette Marine (FMM) and its impact on the Wisconsin economy and throughout the Midwest region. Founded in 1942, the shipyard has grown into the most modern naval shipyard in the U.S., with the majority of that growth taking place in the past decade. The transformation has not been exclusive to Marinette, where the shipyard is physically located. Communities across Wisconsin, from Green Bay to Hudson, Madison, and Janesville, have benefited from the economic engine that the shipyard has become.

When Fincantieri acquired the property in 2009, unemployment was at 14%. There were around 500 to 600 employees in the yard, which at the time was just beginning to build the first Freedom Class Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) for the Navy. From those humble beginnings, Fincantieri Marinette Marine now has over 1,500 full-time employees, with another 1,000 subcontractor employees and Navy personnel coming into the shipyard every day. Since 2009, the shipyard's payroll has topped \$1.4 billion in wages and salaries. This growth has propelled the community of Marinette, northeast Wisconsin, and the entire state's recovery from the Great Recession.

Marinette Marine has delivered the Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) on time and under budget, but the LCS program has now been defunded and is coming to an end. Thanks to your leadership, Marinette Marine is also beginning to build the Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC).

For a decade, the shipyard has represented a credible path out of poverty for residents in northeast Wisconsin and across the state. These are good, high-paying jobs, filled by great people from Wisconsin. Today, Marinette Marine is engaged in a fierce competition, the outcome of which will determine the future of the shipyard and the ecosystem the shipyard currently supports. This is a competition to build the next Guided Missile Frigate for the U.S. Surface Navy Fleet. Winning the Frigate competition will result in an additional 1,000 jobs over the next decade. For every one job in the yard an additional eight jobs are created in the ecosystem that supports the shipyard. If Marinette Marine loses the competition everything could be lost—the jobs, the investment, and the only Midwest shipyard in the Navy's industrial base.



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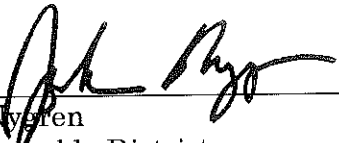
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Wisconsin has the best workforce in America. These proud Americans are steadfast in their support of our country and their tremendous craftsmanship is obvious in the quality of the ships they build. They truly "build freedom" every day. Marinette Marine's workforce, its workforce development and training programs, and its improvements to the shipyard have been witnessed and attested to by the Vice President, the Secretary of Labor, and your Special Assistant for Manufacturing and Trade Policy, Dr. Peter Navarro.


We have witnessed what the loss of opportunity does to the Midwest. When industry departs, so does hope. We do not want to go back to those times. We want our best and brightest to stay here in Wisconsin. Jobs like those in and around shipbuilding are a magnet to the ambitious.


We are hopeful that the U.S. Navy will decide to bring additional ship construction to the State of Wisconsin. We believe your leadership and attention to this opportunity is vital. Not just for a growing shipyard in Wisconsin, but for the communities of great Americans who will benefit for years to come from valuable and meaningful work on behalf of our country.

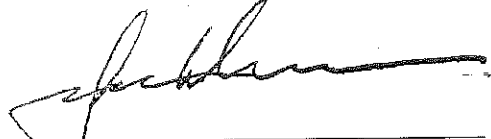
Sincerely,



John Nygren
89th Assembly District


John Jagler
37th Assembly District


Todd Novak
51st Assembly District


Nancy VanderMeer
70th Assembly District


John Macco
88th Assembly District


Robin Vos, Speaker
63rd Assembly District



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Cindi Duchow
99th Assembly District

Michael Schraa
53rd Assembly District

Timothy Ramthun
59th Assembly District

Cody Horlacher
33rd Assembly District

Gary Tauchen
6th Assembly District

Loren Oldenburg
96th Assembly District

Tyler August, Speaker Pro Tempore
32nd Assembly District

Jim Steineke, Majority Leader
5th Assembly District

Ken Skowronski
82nd Assembly District

Rob Summerfield
67th Assembly District

Barbara Dittrich
38th Assembly District

Jeremy Thiesfeldt
52nd Assembly District

Mary Felzkowski, Asst. Majority Leader
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Mike Kuglitsch
84th Assembly District

John Spiros
86th Assembly District

Samantha Kerkman
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93rd Assembly District

Scott Krug
72nd Assembly District

Amanda Stuck
57th Assembly District

Paul Tittel
25th Assembly District

Tony Kurtz
50th Assembly District



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David Murphy
56th Assembly District

Rep. Jeff Mursau

Jeffrey Mursau
36th Assembly District

Rick Gundrum

Rick Gundrum
58th Assembly District

Joel Kitchens

Joel Kitchens
1st Assembly District

Mark Spreitzer

Mark Spreitzer
45th Assembly District

Joan Ballweg

Joan Ballweg
41st Senate District

Mike Rohrkaste

Mike Rohrkaste
55th Assembly District

Terry Katsma

Terry Katsma
26th Assembly District

Adam Neylon

Adam Neylon
98th Assembly District

Janis Ringhand

Janis Ringhand
15th Senate District

Van Wanggaard

Van Wanggaard
21st Senate District

Roger Roth

Roger Roth, Senate President
19th Senate District

Tom Tiffany

Tom Tiffany
12th Senate District

Alberta Darling

Alberta Darling
8th Senate District



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1st Senate District

Patrick Testin
24th Senate District

Dan Feyen, Asst. Majority Leader
18th Senate District

Scott Fitzgerald, Majority Leader
13th Senate District

Dale Kooyenga
5th Senate District

Robert Cowles
2nd Senate District

cc:

Vice President Pence
Honorable Thomas B. Modly
Honorable James Geurts
Dr. Peter Navarro