



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

March 17, 2014

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin,

As you review President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget over the next several months, we respectfully urge you to protect the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program.

Wisconsin is fortunate to be one of two states where the U.S. Navy's littoral combat ships are built. Businesses across Wisconsin employ hundreds of workers that not only assemble the ship but also manufacture its parts. From Beloit, where LCS engines are manufactured at Fairbanks Morse, to Marinette, where the ships are actually built – Wisconsin has played a significant role in LCS production and we are proud of the work we have done.

As you are aware, the LCS encountered a few setbacks early on in production which are not uncommon when developing a new defense weapon. However, based on efforts to increase the efficiency and quality of LCS, these ships are now being purchased below the Congressional-mandated cost cap. We are confident that with the Wisconsin businesses and workers who manufacture, install and assemble the LCS, this positive trend will continue.

Now is not the time to be downsizing the LCS program. Not only does this ship make America and our allies safer by utilizing the latest technology in anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and mine warfare; but we are just now beginning to capitalize on the efficiencies and savings of this fast and highly versatile vessel. As Wisconsin's economy continues to recover, cutting LCS would hurt Wisconsin businesses, add uncertainty to Wisconsin's economy and could have a significant impact on hundreds of workers across our state.

Once again, we strongly urge you to protect the Littoral Combat Ship program. If you have any questions about our support of this project and the impact it has on Wisconsin's economy, feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

Janis Ringhand
State Representative
45th Assembly District

John Nygren
State Representative
89th Assembly District