



M. Jodi Rell

GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Raymond Mabus, Jr.
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus:

On behalf of the great State of Connecticut, I am pleased to make this extraordinary investment in the military value of the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London. This historic and unprecedented act reflects the tremendous partnership the Navy, our state and the communities that surround the base have sustained for over 140 years.

This Navy base, and the *submarine force center of excellence* that has evolved around it, first came into existence in 1868, when the state donated 112 acres of land for its construction. Today, the State of Connecticut again demonstrates unwavering patriotism and support for our national defense by fully funding two construction projects on the base, both intended to enhance its operational capacity and strategic military value.

Over the last 25 years, our nation has emerged from the Cold War and adapted to new global security threats. And the submarine force has undergone its own transformation with modern submarines that bring greater capabilities to perform the unconventional missions necessary to protect America's interests. During the post-Cold War transition, as the nation has downsized its infrastructure, this base was twice targeted for closure. Each time, the tireless efforts of "Team Connecticut" persuaded decision-makers that it would be short-sighted to close the base and lose its irreplaceable enduring value.

Today, this Navy base operates as the undisputed center of gravity for the United States Submarine Force. The attack submarines homeported and maintained here, the training and tactics developed here, the highest quality industrial base co-located here – all coalesce to create a synergy in people, technologies and equipment that give us the greatest submarine force the world has ever seen.

Connecticut has been a partner with the Navy from the beginning, and is proud to continue that tradition today. I believe this \$7.65 million investment in our submarine base will help protect a \$3 billion annual impact in our economy. It will help preserve over 15 thousand jobs. It will help maintain this unparalleled and irreplaceable center of excellence. Most importantly, it will help sustain this national treasure the men and women of Connecticut have created and contributed to our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

M. Jodi Rell
Governor