

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1902

October 12, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Defense Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen,

As you prepare for final conference negotiations with the Senate on the FY2017 Defense Appropriations Act, I write to ask your assistance on the funding outcome for the Navy's front-line major surface combatant shipbuilding program – the DDG-51 AEGIS Destroyer program.

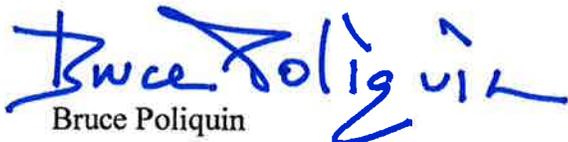
I am most grateful that the House FY2017 Defense bill - under your thoughtful leadership - fully funds the two-ship DDG-51 budget request and adds critical funding to support the Chief of Naval Operations' 2nd highest Unfunded Priority of \$433M to complete funding of the additional DDG-51 ship, which received \$1B in the FY2016 Appropriations process. This ship is slated to be built in Maine by many of my constituents under a longstanding Navy commitment and agreement to preserve the dual-source destroyer shipbuilding base. Construction of that ship in Maine will preserve important jobs and critical skills in our defense shipbuilding industrial base.

While the House bill takes several very positive actions towards funding the DDG-51 shipbuilding program, the bill also proposes to rescind or cancel \$262M of existing FY2016 appropriated funds for the same ship. Should that proposed rescission be agreed to in conference and enacted, it could prevent, delay or render uncertain the procurement and construction of this required warship. The Senate Defense bill proposes no rescission of FY2016 DDG-51 appropriated funds.

I very respectfully ask that you and the House defense conferees agree to the Senate position that does not rescind any FY16 DDG-51 appropriated funds.

Chairman Frelinghuysen, thank for your leadership on national security matters and for your kind attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress