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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1901

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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CO-CHAIR  
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CO-CHAIR

October 21, 2008

Donald C. Winter  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350

Secretary Winter:

I wanted to take this opportunity to applaud the Navy's decision to explore the option of awarding non-competitive contracts to Bath Iron Works (BIW) for the restart of the DDG 51 production line. This movement on behalf of the Navy only strengthens my view that "Bath built is best built."

For over 100 years, BIW has been building destroyers, cruisers, and frigates for the United States Navy, and has been building them better and more efficiently than anyone else. The long and illustrious history that has defined BIW can only be attributed to the fine men and women who work there.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked to ensure that the national security interests of the United States are served, and that the best naval shipbuilders in the world, the men and women of Bath Iron Works, continue to serve our nation by building ships. My priority is to maintain a consistent workload at BIW, and this can only be achieved with the Navy's continued dedication to surface combatants.

As Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Gary Roughead stated after the Christening of the USS Wayne E Meyer, "When you get an organization that is that committed, that is that effective, that efficient, you really have to consider it an American treasure." CNO Roughead said he was impressed by the efficiency and faster production of ships, along with the work culture in Bath. "They really have made some significant strides that I think set the standard for the whole industry." When you have a shipyard worthy of such praise, I think it only prudent to utilize its workers to the best of their ability.

While I was pleased to see the Navy look into awarding six of the eight future DDG 51 contracts to BIW, I would implore you to consider awarding the contracts of all eight DDG 51s destroyers to BIW. Recent changes to the stated development of surface combatants have introduced much turmoil into this sector of shipbuilding. I believe having all eight future destroyers built at BIW would signify the Navy's dedication to a strong surface combatant fleet, now and into the future.

While I understand that these are important decisions to make, and should not be done in haste, I want to remind you of the thousands of workers who rely on the building of these ships as their livelihood. I will continue my strong advocacy for increased funding for shipbuilding in Congress, and I look forward to working with you towards attaining this goal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Allen  
Member of Congress

THA: rdc