

CHRIS PAPPAS  
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

PAPPAS.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
319 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5456

MANCHESTER OFFICE:  
889 ELM STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101  
(603) 935-6710

DOVER OFFICE:  
660 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 101  
DOVER, NH 03820  
(603) 285-4300

December 4, 2025

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chair  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. Senate  
228 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. Senate  
228 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chair  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith:

As negotiations on the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) continue, I strongly urge you to retain language that exempts the workforces of America's public shipyards from hiring freezes and mass layoffs.

The men and women of our public shipyards are essential to maintaining the U.S. Navy's fleet and safeguarding our national security. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in my district, for example, plays a central role in repairing and maintaining Virginia-class submarines, critical platforms for deterrence and operational readiness. Countless Portsmouth personnel work hard every day to ensure our nation's readiness and support our military for any future conflict. Their skills, dedication, and stability are indispensable to meeting the Navy's mission and their job security should never be in question.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is also a pillar of both New Hampshire's economy and the Navy's modernization efforts. It is the economic engine of the Seacoast region, generating more than \$1.5 billion in economic activity in 2023 alone. With more than 7,400 civilian employees, it is also the largest employer in the region. Portsmouth is one of only four public shipyards nationwide that, like its counterparts, supports thousands of workers, drives economic growth in surrounding communities, and provides capabilities the Navy cannot replace.

That is why I introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Protecting Public Naval Shipyards Act, which would require the Department of Defense to exempt certain positions at public shipyards from workforce reductions. This exemption would ensure the overhaul and maintenance of our nuclear-powered submarine fleet continues without interruption, protects employees from arbitrary personnel decisions, and guarantees that shipyards have the reliable workforce they need to keep our nation strong and prepared for the future.

Because language similar to my legislation was included in both the House-passed and Senate-passed NDAA's, I strongly urge you to retain language during conference negotiations to exempt workforces of public shipyards from hiring freezes and mass layoffs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Pappas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Chris Pappaas  
Member of Congress