

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2016

Donald J. Trump
President-elect of the United States of America
Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear President-elect Trump:

We write today to urge you to strongly enforce Buy America provisions in government procurement policies and promote expanded Buy America rules in legislation advanced during your administration.

During your campaign, you repeatedly promised working class Americans you would fight to protect their jobs and rebuild our manufacturing base. The concerns you raised about the state of the economy have been acutely felt by families across the Rust Belt and other blue collar communities throughout the country. Too many families have been harmed by trade and procurement policies that give preference to foreign producers over workers here at home. Our continued prosperity relies on reviving the economic strength of these communities, and the American people have demanded concrete solutions to restore their livelihoods.

Buy America rules offer significant opportunity to strengthen American manufacturing by investing in American workers and securing their jobs. In 2013 federal, state, and local government purchases totaled \$1.1 trillion, serving as the largest single purchasing entity in the world. We should make every effort possible for taxpayer dollars to promote American-made goods and services. Growing the American manufacturing sector will lay the groundwork for American workers to capitalize on advancements in innovation, creating a path forward for a strong 21st century American economy. Government procurement enforcement that reflects these values is vital for a strong middle class.

Existing Buy America standards contain too many loopholes and are not adequately enforced, representing a missed opportunity to strengthen American manufacturing firms and protect our workers. Unfortunately, members of your own party are already waging a vicious campaign against Buy America provisions, including most recently during consideration of the Water Resources Development Act. Their dissent threatens the promise you made to working class voters, who are counting on their elected leaders to stand up for them rather than special interests. Congressional Republican leaders consistently seek to undermine the already

inadequate Buy America requirements found in basic legislation, from annual appropriations bills to the National Defense Authorization Act.

Notably, Republican leaders in Congress try every year to terminate the U.S. Navy's historical and mutually beneficial relationship with the domestic shipbuilding industrial base, seeking repeal of policies that have served U.S. national security and the public interest for years. The national security justification for building ships in the United States is clear, whether it relates to sensitive nuclear technology, to security of the supply chain, or to maintenance of critical capabilities and skills in our industrial base. While statutory requirements are in place to ensure ships procured by the U.S. government are built in the U.S., there are no permanent statutory requirements that critical components must be manufactured domestically. Further, those that do exist are consistently undermined by your party's leadership. That same justification must apply to critical ship systems to maintain the integrity of the entire shipbuilding industrial base.

The Buy America Act requires a majority of the dollar value of a new ship to be from U.S. sources, which means that all ships procured for the Department of Defense, US Coast Guard, or other Federal agencies are procured domestically. However, the Act does not require the same for critical ship systems such as the main propulsion engines. There is currently no evidence to demonstrate that manufacturing and procuring these critical systems offshore would result in any cost savings. To the contrary, relying on foreign sourcing has created supply chain difficulties, raised the cost of sustaining and repairing foreign diesel engines, increased operational risk to the cutter fleet, and weakened manufacturing communities across America. It is essential that this policy is reversed.

Now is the time to work together to expand the benefits of our economy to the workers across the country who have been left behind in recent decades. For this reason, we urge you to uphold your campaign promises and stand with working class voters in support of strongly enforced Buy America rules.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
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John Garamendi
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Marcy Kaptur
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Barbara Lee
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Daniel Lipinski
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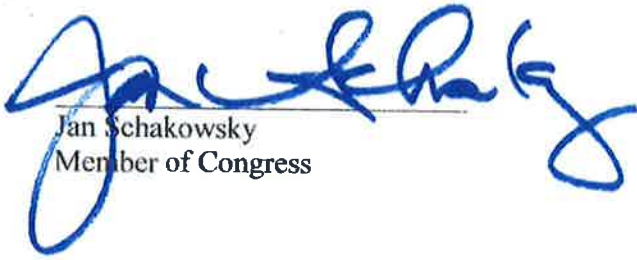
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Chellie Pingree
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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