

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER—SEAPOWER AND  
PROJECTION FORCES  
READINESS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS



**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
**2nd District, Connecticut**

December 1, 2016

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2348 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

Vice President-Elect Michael Pence  
Trump Tower  
725 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Vice President-Elect Pence,

As you continue to address the monumental task of assembling a new administration, I would like to add my voice to the growing chorus of support for the nomination of Congressman J. Randy Forbes as Secretary of the Navy.

I have had the great pleasure of working with Randy for many years on issues of mutual importance. As members who both represent areas that are vital to our nation's shipbuilding capabilities, Randy and I regularly advocated for investment in our submarine force, our carrier fleet, and other elements of our nation's naval strength. More recently, over the past two years I have served as Ranking Member on the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee during Randy's term as Chairman. Under our leadership, the subcommittee developed a well-deserved reputation as the most bipartisan subcommittee of the most bipartisan committee in Congress.

Working together, Randy and I have worked to find innovative new ways to build ships and aircraft, invest in new technologies and capabilities, and ensure that our Navy has the support it needs to meet the challenges of today and the future. This was the result of sustained hard work that Randy and I put in to look past our ideological differences and focus on the needs of sailors, our naval force, and our nation's industrial capacity to support them. Having seen Randy at work up close in hearings, meetings, and all-night mark-ups, I know that he truly understands both the big picture strategic challenges we face, along with the day-to-day responsibilities of leading the Navy.

President-Elect Trump has made increasing the size of the Navy a top priority. While he and I disagree on a great many issues, this is not one of them – our Navy must grow and adapt in order

to meet the varied threats and challenges confronting our nation in the twenty-first century. However, achieving this end will require the contribution of those with a detailed understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead. Given the complexity of our industrial base and competing priorities the Navy and the larger Defense Department, it will be critical that the Navy be led by someone who knows how the Navy, Congress and industry works.

I can think of no better individual to be tasked with this responsibility than Randy. He is a thoughtful leader who has already made a lasting mark on our nation's seapower capabilities. He would serve your administration – and the nation – well as the next Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

Joe Courtney

Ranking Member

Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee