

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2011

Senator Mark Warner
459A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jim Webb
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Warner and Webb,

As you know, the House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. We have worked in a bipartisan fashion with our colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that funds to support the homeporting of a nuclear powered aircraft carrier at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, were realigned to higher priority needs for the Navy. Specifically, the House of Representatives struck an authorization for a military construction project to make road improvements at Naval Station Mayport and put a prohibition in place to prevent the use of planning and design work that would have supported future nuclear aircraft carrier related infrastructure projects at Naval Station Mayport. It is also important to note that, while the House Appropriations Committee included funding for the Massey Avenue project in its as reported bill, the road improvements are not authorized. As you are aware, the statute requires a specific authorization and an appropriation in order to begin construction on this road project.

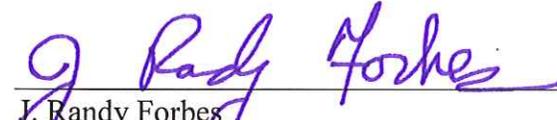
A redundant nuclear aircraft carrier homeport at Naval Station Mayport is neither strategically necessary nor consistent with previous decisions. For years, a variety of Navy strategic assets - including aviation, surface and subsurface combatants - have been located at a single homeport. These consolidation initiatives only gained further momentum in the latest round of BRAC where the Navy proposed to close the last of the strategic homeport initiatives in the Gulf Coast and proposed to consolidate public shipyards on the East Coast. Additionally, in the unlikely event of a national emergency requiring the dispersal of the Atlantic carrier fleet, the Navy already has transient docking capability at Naval Station Mayport and other locations.

At a time when our nation faces historic national fiscal challenges as well as increasing operational demands on our military, a redundant carrier homeport is not in the best interest of the United States. The one-time construction costs to implement the President's request exceed \$500 million, and the recurring costs, which include the temporary relocation of nuclear-capable shipyard workers from Norfolk, Virginia to Mayport, Florida, are significant. Expenses of this magnitude cannot be justified in light of the shortfalls the Navy faces in its ship and aircraft depot maintenance and shore infrastructure sustainment accounts.

The Virginia Delegation of the House of Representatives has put a great deal of effort in fighting to keep aircraft carriers in our state and keep taxpayers' dollars out of low priority projects. In its mark of the National Defense Authorization Act, the Senate Armed Services

Committee cut more than \$1 billion from the President's budget request for military construction projects. However, we were surprised to see no attempt to eliminate funds for the Navy's unnecessary and low priority plans for Naval Station Mayport. As the Senate prepares to consider this legislation on the Senate floor and as you and your colleagues begin considering the authorizations and appropriations for the Department of Defense this year, we urge you to mirror our efforts and strike the military construction authorization that supports a nuclear aircraft carrier homeport move from Norfolk to Mayport. We look forward to working with you on this and other matters of importance to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Rob Wittman
Member of Congress



Scott Rigell
Member of Congress