

**To: Derek**  
**From: Ben and Lena**  
**Date: May 5, 2021**  
**Subject: HASC – NDAA Member Day Testimony**

**Hearing Details:** This hearing is an opportunity for Members off the Committee to testify about their legislative priorities within the Committee's jurisdiction.

**Testimony:**

- Mr. Chair, I want to thank you and the Ranking Member for holding this Member Day.
- I would like to discuss two of my legislative priorities today, both focused on improving infrastructure in and around our military installations. First, I will touch on the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP) and then, I will discuss the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP).
- I represent Washington's Sixth Congressional District which is home to Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton. Kitsap is home to one of the Navy's four public shipyards, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS).
- The four public shipyards – PSNS, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard – are critical in strengthening, maintaining, and modernizing our Navy's fleet and protecting our national interests. The four public shipyards perform all of the Navy's nuclear repair and retrofit work.
- PSNS plays an outsized role for the Department of Defense's current priority theater – INDOPACOM – in that it is the Navy's only dry dock on the West Coast capable of performing carrier work.
- As you know, in 2018, the Navy released its 20-year, \$21-billion Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program – or SIOP - to upgrade and modernize our public shipyards. The program will revitalize and modernize infrastructure at the shipyards, increase climate resilience, and improve resistance to natural disasters.
- The timely execution of SIOP is vital to the Navy's mission, to the security of the work being done in the yards, and to our national security.
- Any delays or shortfalls in funding for SIOP could result in additional aging and damage to the already substandard facilities, utilities, dry docks, equipment, and information technology infrastructure at the four public shipyards. The shipyards will be unable to meet current and future demands of the fleet without continuing investment in SIOP.
- Therefore, Congress and the Navy must ensure SIOP remains on track.

- I appreciate your consideration of my request to prioritize the \$21 billion currently projected as needed for SIOP, as well as any additional funding identified by the Navy to modernize our public shipyards in the future.
- The second priority that I wanted to discuss is the Defense Community Infrastructure Program or DCIP.
- This program was created in 2019 to help communities around military installations address infrastructure deficiencies.
- Grants from DCIP help to preserve and enhance military readiness and security by providing funding for critical infrastructure projects which support on base operations and readiness.
- DCIP is a unique program because it allows the DoD to partner with local communities and share the often expensive costs of infrastructure upgrades.
- Investments from DCIP in defense communities help make these towns and cities more vibrant, livable, and safe, both for service members and their families, and everybody else in the neighborhood.
- All of these investments also help improve the readiness of the bases, because ultimately if the off-base infrastructure is failing, it's that much harder for our service members to get to and from work and do their jobs.
- If the roads leading to a base are too congested, that's hurting the ability of the base to most effectively respond to our national security needs.
- These funds help communities and towns throughout the country including in my district.
- Every day, thousands of servicemembers and civilian employees at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Naval Base Kitsap commute through a section of congested roadway.
- During the morning and afternoon rush hour this normally sleepy stretch of roadway gives LA rush hour a run for its money, turning the road into a parking lot.
- As the nearby military installations continue to grow the problem is only compounded.
- DCIP could offer much needed assistance and support to Kitsap County as they try to address these congestion issues.

- Ultimately, for the installations in my area and throughout America, these issues are impacting bases and their readiness which harms our entire country – not just the people who live near and work on these installations.
- Therefore, I request that you include \$75 million for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) in the FY 2022 NDAA.
- Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Rogers – thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.
- I urge you to consider taking up these provisions as part of the FY 2022 NDAA and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.