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Gentleman,

I am a Supervisory General Engineer at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard currently working in Engineering & Planning Dept. as a Project Engineering & Planning Manager (PEPM). I will have 30 yrs of govt. service this fall.

On behalf of our great nation, I urge you to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) open so our shipyard, and its workers, can continue to provided a high quality product for our country. PNS provides defense and strength for America as we move into the 21st century.

Throughout its long history, right up to the present, PNS has been the most efficient shipyard in our nation. PNS is the leading shipyard in NAVY Submarine Maintenance and Technology. PNS uses innovative processes and technology to accomplish "Center Of Excellence" refurbishment's for shafts and motor generators. No other shipyard can currently accomplish this work. As both maintenance and engineering shipyard, PNS has consistently completed navy submarine availability's with high quality, on time and under budget.

I would agree with the NAVY that excess capacity exists if every shipyard performed maintenance on submarines and delivered them back to the fleet on time and under budget like PNS. The facts detail a different story; a story of continued schedule slippage's and cost overruns for submarine availability's being performed at the other shipyards, particularly Pearl Harbor & Puget. The current situation on a DMP at Electric Boat is simply a disaster.

A business out to achieve improved efficiencies and cost reductions improves or eliminates its weakest link not its strongest. What message does closing PNS send to the other shipyards? It's okay to consistently be over cost and over schedule. We won't realign or close you. Our military men and women won't mind that they will have to stay deployed longer. The American Taxpayer won't mind all the cost overruns.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is indispensable to the defense of our great nation. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will continue to lead the nation in submarine maintenance as we fight the War On Terror and protect our country.

PLEASE REMOVE PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD FROM THE DEFENSE BRAC LIST

John L. Cowles

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