

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President;

Rarely does the Department of Defense offer elected officials the opportunity to support a combat system that will both increase capability and lower costs. Wisconsin is proud of the role it has played in developing such a system, the Navy's new Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). We believe the LCS offers the only realistic opportunity for meeting the goal of a 313-ship Navy in the challenging budgetary climate the nation will be facing in the coming years.

As you know, five years ago the Navy selected two separate contracting teams to develop competing versions of this new type of combat ship. In the coming weeks it will make a final decision as to which of the two producers will be chosen. We believe that the partnership between Marinette Marine and Lockheed Martin Corporation has produced an exceptional ship that offers the Navy the best value.

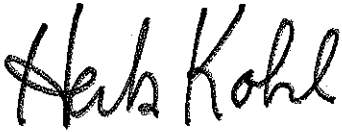
We recognize that the competing ship is built on the Gulf Coast and that that area has suffered a great deal in recent months. But Northeastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan have also been hit hard by the current state of the economy. The latest statistics indicate that unemployment in Marinette County, Wisconsin remains at 10.5% and the rate in neighboring Menominee County, Michigan is at 10.6%.

In the end, we do not think the misfortunes of either region should be a factor in the selection of the winner, but rather it should be made on the basis of a very hard nosed assessment of what will be best for the American taxpayer.

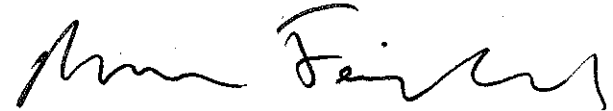
It is our expectation that the Navy's final decision making process be conducted without prejudice to the hardships faced by any one area of the country as unfortunate as they may be, especially in light of the Department of the Navy leadership's assigned role to direct your Administration's efforts in the economic recovery of the Gulf Coast.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter and look forward to a timely decision.

Sincerely,



Senator Herb Kohl



Senator Russ Feingold



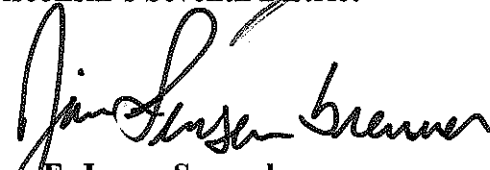
Rep. Steve Kagen
Wisconsin's Eighth District



Rep. David Obey
Wisconsin's Seventh District



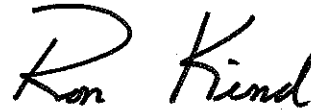
Rep. Tom Petri
Wisconsin's Sixth District



Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner
Wisconsin's Fifth District



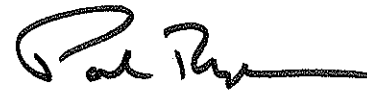
Rep. Gwen Moore
Wisconsin's Fourth District



Rep. Ron Kind
Wisconsin's Third District



Rep. Tammy Baldwin
Wisconsin's Second District



Rep. Paul Ryan
Wisconsin's First District