



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

October 13, 2026

**To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Senate staff assigned to steel, transportation and/or defense issues**

**SIGN THE BIPARTISAN AND BICAMERAL LETTER TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP
IN SUPPORT OF THE SHIPS FOR AMERICA ACT (S. 1541)**

Background: Commercial shipbuilding plays an essential role in both American economic competitiveness. Unfortunately, while the American shipbuilding sector has languished, China's has flourished. Today, China produces 1000 ships a year while the United States produces ten. Essential to rehabilitating U.S. shipbuilding capabilities is utilization of domestic industries that are part of the shipbuilding supply chain, especially American steelmakers who create the steel plate and specialty stainless steels, used for construction of ocean-going vessels.

Situation: Representatives Trent Kelly (R-MS) and John Garamendi (D-CA) successfully included portions of their Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act in the House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027 (FY27 NDAA). Their effort represents a critical first step in undertaking a comprehensive approach to revitalizing the United States shipbuilding and commercial maritime industries.

Request: Along with their House partners (Reps. Kelly and Garamendi), Sens. Todd Young and Mark Kelly are circulating the attached letter to congressional leadership urging the inclusion of additional SHIPS Act provisions in the final version of the FY27 NDAA. **The American Iron and Steel Institute urges all Senate members to sign this commonsense letter.**

Current cosigners: Senate: Sens. Kelly, Young, Baldwin, Blumenthal, Collins, Fetterman and Gillibrand; House: Reps. Kelly, Garamendi, Bacon, Bergman, Carter, Elfreth, Finstad, Khanna, McCormick, Messmer, Strickland, Turner and Van Orden.

The quill link is here: <https://quill.senate.gov/letters/letter/39660/opt-in/view/5aa73755-eea3-4aaa-be2a-da44f8fe65df/>. The deadline to join this letter is **COB Friday, October 16, 2026**. If you have any questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact Gavin Lafoon (Gavin_Laffoon@young.senate.gov), Joe Russell (Joe_Russell@kelly.senate.gov), or Rachel Miller (Rachel_Miller@kelly.senate.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey".

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO