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Anthony R. Gioffredi
President

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

On behalf of the 420 employees at Fairbanks Morse Engine (FME) in Beloit, Wisconsin, I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday and reiterate our FY10 defense appropriations requests for \$8 million in the Navy's Other Procurement budget line for the procurement and installation of seven ship sets of Low Load Diesel Engine Upgrade Kits for the LSD-41/49 class of amphibious ships, and for language in the bill requiring that funds appropriated for future diesel powered ships be used only for the purchase of vessels containing main propulsion engines that are manufactured in the United States.

As you know, FME has been the U.S. manufacturer of choice for the U.S. Navy for large medium-speed diesel engines for decades. FME engines are installed on almost every class of surface ship and submarine. To remedy the problem of heavy carbon residue build-up that is common when diesel engines are operated at low loads by the Navy, FME has developed an upgrade kit that allows the engines to be operated at low loads without the build-up and associated poor operating and maintenance conditions. These kits will offer the Navy significantly improved operating availability, a \$1.6 million per ship savings in overhaul costs, improved fuel efficiency, and reduced pollutant emissions. The program will pay for itself in roughly three years.

I am concerned that as new classes of ships are ordered, foreign manufactured engines may be purchased even though they do not meet the Navy's performance standards and the testing necessary to ensure satisfactory service in the Fleet. In the past, Congress has supported laws requiring certain classes of ships to be built exclusively with U.S. manufactured diesel engines because of the need to maintain a domestic manufacturing base for critical defense systems and components in meeting our national security requirements. The purpose for bill language is not to challenge previous decisions, but to ensure that all future classes of diesel powered ships are built with U.S. manufactured main propulsion engines.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Please feel free to contact me directly at 608-364-8188 should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Anthony R. Gioffredi
President

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