United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C, 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
128 Russell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
128 Russell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell, Senator Schumer, Senator Shelby, and Senator Leahy:

As the Senate considers its next steps to further mitigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, we request that future legislation include the necessary funding, with additional authorizations if required, for the Department of Defense to appropriately adjust contracts that suffer schedule delays and production inefficiencies caused by the pandemic.

The defense industrial base is likely to incur significant cost and schedule impacts during this crisis, and indeed Under Secretary of Defense Ellen Lord recently estimated a three-month delay across the majority of the Department's major defense acquisition programs, particularly among our nation's shipyards and aviation sector, costing billions of dollars.

By coordinating closely with the Department of Defense and the defense industrial base to include proper mitigation provisions in future legislation, Congress will support a critical national security interest and the continued viability of a diverse and agile defense industrial base and its talented workforce.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

/s/ Susan M. Collins
SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine
TIM KAINE
United States Senator

/s/ Doug Jones
DOUG JONES
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
RICHARD
BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator