

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

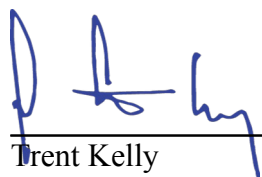
Dear Secretary Hegseth,

We write to you regarding the contributions made by the Commonwealth of Australia in support of the AUKUS trilateral agreement. This contribution is being made specifically for the purpose of improving the United States submarine industrial base. When the authority to accept such support was established by the fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (FY24 NDAA), it created the Submarine Security Activities Account. This account allows Australia to contribute funds that would be strictly complementary to planned U.S. investments needed to grow the capacity and quality of the U.S. submarine industrial base. This authorization also came with the requirement that the President of the United States submit a plan to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership detailing the amount of funds and how such funds will be utilized.

It is our understanding that the first tranche of funding from Australia in the amount of \$500 million dollars has been provided to the Submarine Securities Activities Account. We look forward to receiving the required notifications detailed in section 1353(d) of the FY24 NDAA so that funding may be expeditiously made available for obligation to the U.S. submarine industrial base. This funding should not be used to offset any current or future cost growth that may exist elsewhere in U.S. submarine procurement. Instead, we hope that these funds will be used to supplement ongoing efforts to increase submarine production, adhere to the enabling legislation, and reaffirm the United States' commitment to the Australian government.

We in Congress remain committed to working with President Trump, his administration, and the Department of Defense to ensure the success of the AUKUS arrangement. The AUKUS partnership is critical to the national security of the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

Sincerely,



Trent Kelly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Seapower and
Projection Forces



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Subcommittee
on Seapower and Projection
Forces