The American Legion

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OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

August 8, 2017

The Honorable Rob Wittman
United States House of Representatives
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wittman:

On behalf of the 2.2 million members of The American Legion, we are pleased to express our support for H.R. 2994 entitled the *Securing the Homeland by Increasing our Power on the Seas (SHIPS) Act.*

The *Securing the Homeland by Increasing our Power on the Seas (SHIPS) Act* as currently written, makes it the policy of the United States government to field a minimum 355-ship fleet. It is increasingly evident that the post-Cold War era and America's unipolar moment has ended and a new international security environment is now taking shape. In addition to a transnational terror threat that has metastasized since the 9/11/01 attacks, the United States is facing a new great power competition for the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill is a critical step forward in equipping our naval expeditionary forces to deter and, if necessary, defeat threats to our national interests worldwide.

According to Resolution No. 96: *Support Full Funding and Resourcing for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps*, passed at the 2016 National Convention, The American Legion urges the Administration and the Congress to fully resource and fund the United States Navy and Marine Corps to provide credible combat power from the sea.

The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing this critical national security issue facing our great nation.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
National Commander