



Dear Congress:

The Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition (AWIBC) urges Congress to support provisions in the final defense appropriations and authorization bills that will provide – in the most cost-efficient way possible – the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps team the amphibious warships it requires for its vital mission and for the nation’s defense.

Currently, there are only 30 amphibious warships in the U.S. Navy – eight ships below the stated U.S. Marine Corps minimum requirement – and almost a third of these are unavailable due to much-needed maintenance.

At the same time this shortage of ships exists, the shipbuilding industry and its suppliers – that have been building amphibious warships on a regular schedule – are experiencing a significant and abrupt gap in the production of parts and products for amphibious warships.

We urge Congress to provide 2017 funding for the construction of a new amphibious warship to support the vital industrial base.



For the past 11 years, building amphibious warships on a steady and predictable schedule has allowed suppliers to leverage the many advantages offered by a hot production line. This has included acquisition and life cycle cost savings through production learning; batch-buying of material; mitigation of nonrecurring costs; and reuse of logistics support, training, maintenance and outfitting products.

The nation has benefited tremendously from the economic efficiency of this construction schedule.

Unfortunately, the construction gap between the ship currently under construction and the first of the next generation of amphibious warships, LX(R), is five long years.

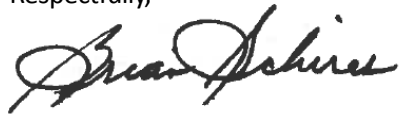
This gap is straining our companies' investment in workers' skills, technology and equipment, while at the same time, the Marine Corps needs these ships.

The U.S. lead in advanced defense technological innovations has been maintained only through the commitment of our labor force to constant improvement of skills and through the development of new and innovative technologies.

Funding in 2017 to build a new amphibious warship will reduce that gap, strengthen our industrial base and address the dire shortage of amphibious warships the Marine Corps requires.

Thank you again for your strong support of amphibious warships. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Schires". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Schires
Rolls-Royce North America
Chair, Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition