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Amphibious Warship Suppliers Return to Capitol Hill to Advocate for Amphibious Warships (March 8, 2024) Washington, DC — Yesterday, more than 150+ amphibious warship industry members, including suppliers from across the United States, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps leadership, Members of Congress and staff, as well as the media attended the Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition's (AWIBC) annual Congressional Forum to advocate for the value of the U.S. Navy's amphibious warship fleet to the Navy-Marine Corps team and nation. Notably, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Christopher J. Mahoney, delivered the keynote address.

The amphibious warship industry gathered to discuss the importance of amphibious warships and their critical role in enabling the Navy-Marine Corps team to deploy swiftly and aggressively from the sea and in air in times of crisis. AWIBC released [survey findings](#) at the event that included insights on the state of the industrial base. Some of the top-line findings include:

- 50% of amphibious warship suppliers said that extended builds would significantly increase the cost of their products/services
- If LHA or LPD production were to be delayed by a year or more:
 - 40% would anticipate needing to lay off workers
 - 29% would explore more commercial contracts and deprioritize shipbuilding
- Nearly 70% said the most helpful thing the government can do is provide predictability and stability via multi-ship and multi-year procurement strategies.
- 53% of suppliers that contribute to both amphibious warships and submarines said that steady amphib contracts benefit their company's capacity and capability to deliver submarine orders, making it possible to invest in equipment to ensure quality and on-time delivery.

The forum was a chance to raise awareness of the challenges facing the industrial base regarding inconsistent defense contracts, the impact on the supply chain, and the importance of maintaining a steady production line for job security.

"The shipbuilding industrial base plays a crucial role in safeguarding national security. We are ready to help construct amphibious warships, but we need a strong and consistent demand signal now," said AWIBC Chairman, Paul Roden. "Stability in shipbuilding facilitates efficiency, which translates to cost savings for the government and taxpayer, as well as economic growth for local communities."

Keynote speaker, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps General Mahoney highlighted the importance of amphibious warships to national security. "In an uncertain and unpredictable world, our Nation requires flexible, adaptable naval platforms and combat-credible forces who are postured

forward, where presence matters most. Amphibious Warfare Ships are the most versatile platforms in the U.S. inventory and offer strategic maritime advantage in competition and conflict,” said Mahoney.

At the event, coalition members heard from speakers Senator Roger Wicker (MS), Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI), Senator Dan Sullivan (AK), Representative Rob Wittman (VA-01), Representative Joe Courtney (CT-02), and Representative Trent Kelly (MS-01). These elected officials spoke about the value of amphibious warships to our nation and the importance of building amphibious warships cost-effectively to construct the full 31 amphibious warships required by the U.S. Marine Corps.

“I appreciated the opportunity to speak to industry leaders, fellow Members of Congress, and defense officials about our common commitment to building more amphibious warships,” Senator Wicker said. “Given the rising threat of China and the state of our fleet, there is no time to waste. We must expedite a ‘peace through strength’ program that gets us to the Marines’ 31-warship requirement.”

Senator Baldwin (WI) also provided remarks at the event saying, “Wisconsin has a long and proud tradition of domestic shipbuilding, and I’m proud to support that legacy. The Badger State is home to a skilled manufacturing workforce that’s helped sustain America’s security for generations. While we continue to face challenges across the globe – from rising tensions to supply chain disruptions – it’s critical that we have a robust, stable shipbuilding industrial base. Maintaining, growing, and investing in domestic shipbuilding is not just an economic issue, it’s a national security priority, and I’m proud to continue supporting our Made in America shipbuilding economy.”

Representative Trent Kelly (MS-01) also expressed his strong support. “As a steadfast advocate for our national defense, I firmly believe in the critical importance of our amphibious warship fleet. These vessels are not just crucial for our Navy-Marine Corps team’s rapid deployment capabilities but also represent a pivotal investment in our national security architecture... It’s imperative that we unite in support of this endeavor, reinforcing our resolve to maintain a fleet that is as formidable as it is versatile, ensuring peace through strength in an increasingly uncertain world,” said Kelly.

Representative Rob Wittman (VA-01) echoed this support saying, “The hardworking suppliers in Virginia’s First District and throughout the Commonwealth play a crucial role in strengthening the Navy. With growing threats from adversaries, it is vital that we take intentional steps to modernize and build out the fleet, which doesn’t just safeguard national security but also bolsters our nation’s job security and economic security. Our amphibious warships make it possible for the Navy-Marine Corps team to swiftly deploy in times of crises, address humanitarian disasters, and protect a strong and strategic presence in the South China Sea.”

To learn more about AWIBC and amphibious warships, please visit <https://amphibiouswarship.org/>. Check out the highlights from the Congressional Forum by AWIBC on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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ABOUT THE AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIP COALITION (AWIBC)

The Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition (AWIBC) is a coalition of 650 companies in 39 states and 249 Congressional districts nationwide that provide parts worth over \$1.7 billion to build and maintain amphibious warships for the United States Navy. AWIBC advocates for Congress to provide funding for the sustained and stable construction of amphibious warships vital to the mission of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.