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THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION

BEFORE THE

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

OF THE

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

ON

COAST GUARD ARCTIC IMPLEMENTATION CAPABILITIES

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Chairman Hunter, Ranking Member Garamendi, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Navy's ongoing and continued involvement with the Coast Guard and ship design and construction collaboration. The Navy fully supports the President's National Strategy for the Arctic Region and its corresponding implementation Plan. The Navy also looks forward to working with Congress and the Coast Guard to explore ways to answer the President's call to accelerate the recapitalization of heavy icebreaking ships to meet our national interests in the changing Arctic region.

U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap 2014-2030 aligns with the National and Department of Defense Arctic Strategies and includes a plan that directs the development of Arctic capabilities and capacity in step with changing environmental conditions. The Navy's four strategic objectives in the Arctic include ensuring U.S. Arctic sovereignty, providing ready naval forces, preserving freedom of the seas, and promoting partnerships. The Navy will continue our strong, cooperative partnership with the Coast Guard, in addition to the interagency and international Arctic Region stakeholders, to address emerging opportunities and challenges presented by the seasonal opening of the Arctic Ocean waters. The Navy will continue to exploit all opportunities that will provide our sailors with superior maritime knowledge of the Arctic.

The Navy will work closely with the Coast Guard as they procure the first heavy icebreaker in 2020; consistent with the Coast Guard's recently established heavy icebreaker operational requirements. Coupled with Congressional support, both the Navy and the Coast Guard are working to develop a program plan to efficiently and effectively move the icebreaker program forward. As you know, the Navy has a long history of designing and acquiring ships and we have offered our full range of experience and expertise to the Coast Guard and the icebreaker program. We are aware of the Coast Guard's acquisition team's progress in executing an Analysis of Alternatives which, along with industry involvement, will inform the icebreaker acquisition strategy.

The Navy is committed to the success of this icebreaker program and we offer the support of our acquisition community during the Coast Guard's design, development, construction, test, trials and delivery processes. We stand ready to provide shipbuilding expertise in acquisition career fields including program management, engineering, cost estimating, test, and manufacturing. We will provide access to facilities such as the model basin tow tank at Naval Surface Warfare Center at Carderock, Maryland to help retire risk to the program. The Navy and Coast Guard both stand to see mutual benefit using best practices in shipbuilding to strengthen the shipbuilding industrial base.

The Navy stands alongside the Coast Guard in this endeavor to see the icebreaker program become a success.

Again, thank you Chairman Hunter, Ranking Member Garamendi and other members of this Subcommittee for the opportunity to appear before you today.