



18 November 2013

The Honorable Robert Menendez (NJ)  
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

CC: Senator Bob Corker (TN), Senator Dan Coats (IN)

Dear Chairman Menendez,

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we welcome and support your bill S. 1683, the "Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2013," as it seeks to eliminate the maintenance costs of excess vessels no longer necessary for our maritime forces by both grants and sales, thereby saving money, generating funds and helping to alleviate some of the pressures from sequestration during these difficult economic times for our military. In addition, the bill will provide our allies with augmented maritime posture to confront maritime threats to their national security.

S. 1638 seeks to transfer by both grant and sale vessels to a number of our allies under Section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The bill outlines a plan to transfer per grant the USS *Curts* (FFG-38) and USS *McClusky* (FFG-41), *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigates to Mexico as well as the USS *Rentz* (FFG-46) and USS *Vandegrift* (FFG-48) *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigates to Thailand. In addition, the bill outlines a plan to transfer per certifying grant, under a set of strict guidelines to certify the grant between Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) and Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), the USS *Klaking* (FFG-42), the USS *De Wert* (FFG-45) and the USS *Robert G. Bradley* (FFG-49) *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigates to Pakistan. Furthermore, S. 1638 will also help generate funds through the sale of the USS *Taylor* (FFG-50), USS *Gary* (FFG-51), USS *Carr* (FFG-52), and USS *Elrod* (FFG-55), *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigates to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office. It is important to note that in 2012 alone, two FFG's were sold for \$240 million to Taipei. The sale of these vessels not only helps with cost savings and helps generate funds, but also provides for Taiwan's growing defense needs.

This bill brings much needed cost relief, due to maintenance and upkeep, as well as revenue while also augmenting our allies' maritime defense needs and posture. As sequestration is implemented and we face difficult budget cuts to our future force, your bill would help eliminate the maintenance of excess vessels, generate revenue, and strengthen our allies.

Thank you for taking initiative in introducing this bill to help our Navy, as well as our allies. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Legislative Director, Mr. Anthony A. Wallis, by email at [anthony.wallis@ausn.org](mailto:anthony.wallis@ausn.org) or at 703-548-5800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Totushek".

VADM John Totushek, USN (Ret)  
Executive Director, AUSN