

REID J. RIBBLE  
8TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

1513 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE (202) 225-6665  
FAX (202) 225-5729

DISTRICT OFFICES:

333 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE  
APPLETON, WI 54911  
PHONE (920) 380-0061  
FAX (920) 380-0051

550 N. MILITARY AVENUE  
SUITE 4B  
GREEN BAY, WI 54303  
PHONE (920) 471-1950



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CONSERVATION, ENERGY, AND FORESTRY

LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AVIATION

RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Honorable Buck McKeon, Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I writing to you to express my concern and disappointment over the acceptance of an amendment introduced at the last minute by the Seapower and Projection of Forces Subcommittee in markups to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

In contrast to the language in the amendment, I believe the Navy has been forthcoming regarding Littoral Combat Ship deficiencies and the corrective actions taken on behalf of the Navy and its industry partners. It is my understanding that this amendment was brought forward in response to a poorly researched blog posting by POGO. I agree with defense expert Christopher Cavas who stated, POGO's report while supported by a number of documents dating back several years provide some additional detail into specific events, but does not present any new issues that have not already been publicly discussed and in many cases presented in congressional testimony.

I understand the claims by this group, POGO, were found without merit and that the Navy immediately responded with a detailed document refuting each of their claims. Nevertheless it appears this official Navy document was not considered by your Subcommittee.

I am grateful you've taken the time to visit the Marinette Marine shipyard which built the USS Freedom. The LCS Freedom-variant is produced in the Congressional District I represent and I have visited the shipyard on several occasions. I am proud of the quality workmanship achieved by the shipyard's dedicated workforce. Moreover, I am pleased to see the second LCS ship built at Marinette, the Fort Worth, is nearly 100% complete and is on-budget and on-schedule, an achievement worthy of our recognition.

I believe effective oversight is absolutely necessary to good governance. On the other hand, I believe the Committee has already received all pertinent information relative to the performance of LCS 1. I therefore request that as you move forward, you work with your Seapower and Projection of Forces Subcommittee to have this last minute amendment stricken from further consideration and legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reid J. Ribble".

Reid J. Ribble  
Member of Congress