



July 25, 2023

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs
Committee
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Meeks:

On behalf of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and our more than 320 American aerospace and defense (A&D) companies, thank you for your leadership on the Australia – United Kingdom – United States (AUKUS) partnership. This historic arrangement is a generational opportunity for all three nations and represents one of the best examples of manufacturing and technology industrial cooperation that strengthens global security and the American defense industrial base.

The introduction of several pieces of legislation this month, including the *Oversight and Accountability (AOA) Act of 2023*, the *AUKUS Submarine Transfer Authorization Act of 2023*, the *Keeping our Allies Leading in Advancement (KOALA) Act of 2023*, and *Bilateral Resilience in Industry Trade Security (BRITS) Act of 2023* contain critical enabling authorities that collectively implement AUKUS. This legislation authorizes the sale of *Virginia-class* submarines to Australia and reduces regulatory barriers that may hinder this historic security partnership. Moreover, the legislation strengthens the United States' (U.S.) longstanding bilateral relationship with the United Kingdom (U.K.) and Australia respectively.

While the AUKUS partnership is widely supported by the American A&D industry, operational success depends on reducing barriers to cooperation. This requires a modern defense trade system with clearly defined standards that allows industry and foreign partners to jointly plan, produce, and acquire strategic and advanced capabilities. As the manufacturers, exporters, and implementers of the AUKUS Pillars, the U.S. A&D industry will play an integral role as Australia, the U.K., and the U.S. take this historic partnership from concept to reality. Our industry remains steadfast in providing feedback and supporting policies to promote and advance U.S. national security objectives that maximize speed, innovation, and technological advancement — all of which are essential for the success of AUKUS.

These bills include key reforms that AIA members strongly support, including establishing a Department of State Senior Advisor for AUKUS; expanding authorities in the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 by implementing streamlined export license reviews for defense articles and services; and authorizing the sale of *Virginia-class* submarines to Australia. Comprehensively, these groundbreaking bills support the broader relationship between the U.S., the U.K., and Australia. The foreign military sales and direct commercial sales exemptions specific to each partner under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) in the *BRITS Act* and *KOALA Act* are imperative to the operational success of the AUKUS partnership. Further, by permitting additional expedited innovation on future technologies that is not limited to cooperation under

the existing AUKUS capability framework, this legislation will strengthen our global leadership while addressing the overarching challenges of deterrence, strategic competition, and supply chain resiliency. We believe there is, and continue to encourage, bipartisan support for these policies.

The benefits for the U.S. defense industrial base derived from this legislation are simply unmatched and will be reflected in our national security, our economy, and our armed services for decades to come. Therefore, we urge the House Foreign Affairs Committee to affirmatively mark up the *AOA Act*, *AUKUS Submarine Transfer Authorization Act*, *KOALA Act*, and *BRITS Act* as soon as possible and bring these bills to the House floor for a vote in short order.

Our organization and member companies look forward to working with you all on a comprehensive bipartisan, bicameral approach to this crucial national security issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Fanning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Eric Fanning
President and CEO
Aerospace Industries Association

CC:

The Honorable Bill Huizenga, House Foreign Affairs Committee
The Honorable Young Kim, House Foreign Affairs Committee
The Honorable Tom Kean, Jr. House Foreign Affairs Committee