

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2008

Commander, Southern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Attn: Mr. Will Sloger (Code ES12)
Post Office Box 190010
North Charleston, South Carolina 29419-9010

Dear Mr. Sloger:

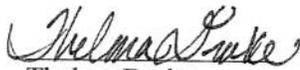
As the Navy proceeds with its Environment Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed homeporting of additional surface ships at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, we are writing to request additional time to provide comments to the Navy in response to the Draft EIS. We have followed this issue with interest; and are aware of and support the Commonwealth of Virginia's request on April 15, 2008 for additional time to provide comments to the Draft EIS.

In light of the profound impacts on the Commonwealth of Virginia that may result from the final EIS, the significant variations in the type and number of vessels involved in the study and the complex methodology employed in preparing the environmental analysis, we believe that an extension of the comment period is warranted in order to allow interested parties to conduct meaningful analysis and provide comments. We also note that the appendices to the Draft EIS were not made available on the website, making a complete analysis impossible until the documents were received by other means.

As you know, the Commonwealth responded to the Navy's November 2006 scoping announcement to prepare this Draft EIS. Given the importance of this study to the Commonwealth, it plans to provide formal comments to the Draft EIS as well. In order to allow for a complete review, we request that you extend the comment period by an additional 45 days.

We appreciate and thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Thelma Drake
Member of Congress


J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress


Robert C. Scott
Member of Congress


Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress