DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

October 21, 2011

The Honorable Randy Forbes
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Forbes:

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2011 regarding the decision to homeport a Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier (CVN) in Mayport. I appreciate your thoughtful and constructive inputs on the current fiscal challenges in relation to the strategic dispersal of our CVN Fleet.

From a strategic standpoint, the rationale supporting the decision to disperse our East Coast Carrier Fleet remains sound, as validated in the Secretary of Defense-led 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review. Within the context of the ongoing Department of Defense strategic and budget reviews, the size of the fiscal adjustments compels us to take a comprehensive strategic review, examining every program element, including the funding required to homeport a CVN in Mayport. You can be assured I will include your concerns in the Navy's strategic calculus.

I am grateful for your commitment to the Navy and dedication to service members in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I have sent a similar letter to the co-signers of the 23 September letter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan W. Greenert

JONATHAN W. GREENERT
Admiral, U.S. Navy