



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

March 19, 2020

Mr. Craig Perciavalle
President
Austal USA
100 Addsco Road
Mobile, AL 36602

Dear Mr. Perciavalle,

During this time of national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to emphasize the importance of employee health and safety as well reemphasize the importance of the ship construction and repair efforts you and your suppliers perform to the national defense. Delivering or redelivering our ships to the fleet is a national need that is unwavering and crucial to our national security.

Given the mission essential functions you perform, while ensuring the safety and well-being of the workforce, I cannot stress enough the importance of accomplishing this mission, and notifying the Government of any impediments that are considered likely to interfere with timely accomplishment of this mission. This is in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines and the Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-21 "Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience," which defines critical infrastructure industry to include the Defense Industrial Base.

Secretary Modly, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), and I understand that this national emergency presents a challenge and we are dedicated to working closely with you to ensure the safety of the workforce and the national security mission.

Sincerely,


James F. Geurts