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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 6, 2021

The Honorable Thomas W. Harker
Acting Secretary, United States Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Harker:

Massachusetts is proud of our strong tradition of military service. During times of war and peace, the citizens of the Commonwealth have stepped up to serve our nation. Massachusetts is home to the very beginning of our path towards liberty and the founding of our nation.

It is fitting then, that the USS Massachusetts, SSN 798, currently under construction, will soon become the first Navy vessel to carry our state's name since BB-59, Battleship Massachusetts. This vessel served as both the first and last battleship to fire her 16-inch guns during World War II. Today we still honor the Battleship Massachusetts as a museum and a memorial.

We were proud to host the commissioning of the USS Thomas Hudner in Boston, MA on December 1, 2018. The event attracted upwards of 5,000 people and represented the care and commitment of our Commonwealth to our Navy, our liberty, and our heritage as a maritime state. Massachusetts has a long and proud history supporting our nation's military –and we look to renew our dedication with support for the submarine USS Massachusetts.

This Virginia-class submarine, set to be commissioned in 2023, is being constructed with equipment and technology from across the Commonwealth – creating jobs and leveraging the capabilities of our people and resources.

The Commonwealth stands ready to work with our partners in law enforcement, local government, and elsewhere to support the needs of the US Navy for the commissioning at our Flynn Cruise Terminal.

As Governor, it gives me great pleasure to join all our residents in celebrating the honor of having a submarine Massachusetts, which can be best done here in the Commonwealth. By this letter, I am asking that the Navy select Boston as the host city for the Commissioning of the USS Massachusetts SSN 798.

We stand proudly alongside the USS Massachusetts Commissioning Committee and all crewmembers for the dedication that they have shown to this important cause. I look forward to the many milestones ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles D. Baker".

Charles D. Baker
Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts