

VSG Written Testimony to House Appropriations Committee (2/23/23)

Chairman Lanpher, members, House Committee on Appropriations

This letter, and the three documents referenced below, are the written testimony in support of the USS Vermont Support Group (VSG) request for an annual appropriation of \$10,000, beginning in FY 24.

USS VERMONT (SSN 792) will be serving our nation for thirty years or more, beginning with her commissioning in 2020. Vermont Support Group has undertaken continuing support of Vermont's namesake submarine, her crew, and their families, on behalf of the State of Vermont. We ask your approval of this annual appropriation request.

The following documents have been forwarded separately:

1) E-message to Chair and Members of the Committee (2/7/23), requesting your support and approval of our request, and asking for an opportunity to testify;

2) VSG Appropriation Request, which was sent as an attachment to 1) above. This request was submitted to the Military Department in November '22 for inclusion in their FY 24 proposed budget. We asked for an annual appropriation, similar to that made each year to support Boy Scouts Parade, Boys and Girls State, and Governor's Veterans Advisory Council;

3) VSG briefing provided to the House Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee last Wednesday (2/15 via ZOOM), requesting their support. This briefing summarizes our mission and objectives, our ongoing work in support of these objectives, our financial status and outlook, and examples of ongoing actions and activities to support USS VERMONT (SSN 792) on behalf of our state.

We ask for your approval of an annual appropriation of \$10,000 so VSG can continue this important work.

Respectfully,

Albert J. Perry Captain USN (Ret.)