

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 4, 2018

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Spencer:

Thank you for your support of the Great Lakes shipbuilding industry and the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program. As you consider names for LCS 29—the newest Freedom variant LCS, which is built in Marinette, Wisconsin—I respectfully request that you name the ship after the City of Beloit, Wisconsin, in recognition of its contributions to the U.S. Navy and America’s national security.

The City of Beloit has a long and proud history of supporting the Navy and the U.S. military. Citizens of Beloit have selflessly and ably served in our Armed Forces, including recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Navy Cross, and companies that call the city home have built the components and platforms that have helped keep our military safe and effective. One company in particular continues to have an outsized impact on the success of the Navy and the LCS program—Fairbanks Morse, which manufactures a large percentage of the Navy’s large medium-speed diesel engines, including for the Freedom variant.

The relationship among the City of Beloit, Fairbanks Morse, and the Navy began in earnest in 1938, when Fairbanks Morse sold its first engine to the Navy. Soon after, as the United States ramped up the defense industrial base in preparations for World War II, the Navy invested heavily in the company, including \$5.5 million (the equivalent of approximately \$100 million today) for a new manufacturing site for diesel engines. During the war, Fairbanks Morse delivered 1,650 engines, at a rate of one per day. In recognition of the company’s contributions, Fairbanks Morse was honored by the U.S. Department of War with two Army-Navy “E” Awards, an extremely rare distinction showcasing the company’s excellence in supporting the war effort.

The City of Beloit greatly supported Fairbanks Morse’s wartime efforts by building new housing developments, refurbishing old housing, establishing new bus lines to bring in workers from adjacent communities and helping women join the workforce. Similarly, the Beloit community played a significant role in the war effort through the founding of the Council of Defense, which organized fundraising, scrap metal drives, civilian defense initiatives in case of blackouts and air raids, and the training of blackout workers and volunteers. Other Beloit companies also supported the military during World War II, including the Beloit Iron Works, which built machine tools needed for war production, and C.H. Beasley, among others. In more recent years, Beloit companies such as Regal Beloit, Welders Supply, and BRP, among others, have partnered with the U.S. Department of Defense to further our security interests. The City of Beloit has previously been recognized for its support to the U.S. military through the naming of a Victory ship in 1944—the SS Beloit Victory.

In a fitting tribute, LCS 25 was named after the City of Marinette, Wisconsin, to honor the skilled workers at Fincantieri Marinette Marine who build the Freedom variant as well as the local community

that supports those efforts. Considering that the City of Beloit is home to Fairbanks Morse, which manufactures approximately 80% of the Navy's propulsion diesel engines and was selected as the Freedom variant "Supplier of the Year" in 2015, and a local population with a proud and continuing tradition of supporting the Navy, I believe that it would be appropriate to name LCS 29 the USS BELOIT.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your dedicated work on behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Navy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator