

2010 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 19

Encouraging the Governor and Virginia Congressional Delegation to take immediate and necessary action to ensure the U.S. Navy's East Coast aircraft carriers remain in Hampton Roads.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 15, 2010

WHEREAS, the recent release of the Quadrennial Defense Review calls for the relocation of a Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carrier from Hampton Roads to Naval Station Mayport, Florida; and

WHEREAS, such a move portends the loss of more than one carrier from Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, the loss of a single aircraft carrier would have a significant negative impact upon the economy of the Commonwealth, to include the loss of a minimum of 10,000 jobs and over one percent of Hampton Roads' gross regional product; and

WHEREAS, the cost to American taxpayers to convert Naval Station Mayport into a port capable of handling a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is estimated to be as high as \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, there has been a troubled history of maintaining conventional aircraft carriers at Naval Station Mayport; and

WHEREAS, the move of an aircraft carrier from its industrial base in Hampton Roads would involve increased maintenance costs for the U.S. Navy and, thus, an increased burden upon the American taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, the proximity of Naval Station Mayport to the mouth of St. John's River makes it more vulnerable to potential terrorist attack; and

WHEREAS, no aircraft carrier or any other naval vessel has been damaged by a terrorist attack or man-made disaster in Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads area is known as the "birthplace" of nuclear aircraft carriers; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads area has the largest navy base in the world and is renowned for its industrial support capacity and professional workforce; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Governor and Virginia Congressional Delegation be encouraged to take immediate and necessary action to ensure the U.S. Navy's East Coast aircraft carriers remain in Hampton Roads; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Virginia Congressional Delegation and the Governor so that they may be apprised of the sense of the Virginia House of Delegates in this matter.

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