PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-1401

2256 RAYBURN BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1401 (202) 225-2461

7895 BROADWAY, SUITE A MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410 (219) 795-1844

> Call Toll Free 1 888 423 PETE (1 888 423-7383)

INTERNET: http://visclosky.house.gov

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Dear Citizens of Indiana:

It is a tremendous honor to write this letter celebrating the imminent commissioning of the USS Indiana (SSN-789).

The Commissioning of a US Naval vessel has a history deeply seated in tradition. Since it will be one of the first public engagements in the vessel's history, it undoubtedly sets the first impression of the boat. The unflagging spirit of service found in the Commissioning Committee and the crew of the USS Indiana will ensure that this first impression is a great one! I greatly appreciate their countless hours of enthusiastic engagement and deep sense of duty.

Once it joins the fleet, the USS Indiana will be one of the most capable undersea platforms in the world. Along with its sister ships, it will provide our nation with unparalleled stealth and strike capability, the ability to support special operations forces, and persistence to carry out intelligence and reconnaissance missions.

Further, the USS Indiana is a testament to the hardworking people in the nation's shipbuilding industry. A substantial amount of this work is performed by seventeen industrial base suppliers right here in Indiana. This incredible warship could not be built without these highly skilled workers who manufacture specialized components and materials.

I realize that the work is far from over for the USS Indiana Commissioning Committee, crewmembers, suppliers, and shipyard workers. Nevertheless, I am supremely confident that their dedication will result in the highest level of honor deserving of our great state's namesake.

Peter J. Visolosky Member of Congress