



*The Honorable Donald C. Winter  
Secretary of the Navy  
100 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350*

*Admiral Michael Mullen  
Chief of Naval Operation  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350*

*Dear Sec. Winter:*

*We respectfully request that you name one of the new Virginia-class attack submarines the U.S.S. North Dakota. The Virginia-class submarine SSN-783 has been approved for advanced procurement funding. This vessel is also currently without a name. There has not been a vessel named after North Dakota since 1923. As there is currently no vessel in the United States Navy named for North Dakota, we ask that you honor our state by giving this vessel the historic and appropriate name - the U.S.S. North Dakota. To have a newly commissioned warship named for their state would be a wonderful tribute to the thousands of North Dakotans proudly serving in the United States Armed Forces, as well as the millions who have served their country in the past.*

*There has been only one ship bearing the U.S.S. North Dakota name in the past. It was a Delaware-class battleship commissioned in April of 1910. In her short career, the U.S.S. North Dakota participated in the Mexican intervention in 1914, served as a gunnery and engineering training ship during World War I. In 1921, the U.S.S. North Dakota participated in aerial bombing tests off the Virginia Capes. She was designated BB-29 in 1920, as the Navy formally adopted hull numbers at this time.*

*Throughout her time in the Navy Fleet, she traversed the Atlantic Ocean in 1910 and again in 1919, this time to bring home the remains of the U.S. ambassador to Italy. She also traveled through the waves of the Atlantic in 1923, her final trip across the Atlantic. In November 1923, the U.S.S. North Dakota was decommissioned and was demilitarized in 1924.*

*North Dakota is a state with a long and proud history of military service. It would be a great honor to all North Dakotans if the military history within the state of North Dakota was augmented by naming a submarine with the sophistication and technologies found in a Virginia-class submarine.*

*Sincerely,*