

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
Chairman, U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 228
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: U.S.S. Joseph I. Lieberman

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Reed:

We write to you in support of Senator Blumenthal's proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2027 expressing the sense of Congress that the nuclear-powered Virginia-class submarine of the Navy designated as SSN-817 be named the U.S.S. Joseph I. Lieberman.

The late Senator Lieberman was a dear colleague and friend. He was a champion of bipartisanship and one of the finest public servants this country has known. As a former U.S. Senator from Connecticut, chairman of the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Democratic nominee for vice president of the United States in 2000, he was a leader on national security policy. Senator Lieberman was the first Jewish American candidate on a major party presidential ticket in U.S. history. He later served as chairman of United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI).

Senator Lieberman was also one of America's greatest advocates for tolerance and interfaith cooperation. He was a leading voice against the scourge of antisemitism. If he were alive today, we have no doubt he would not only be concerned about the rise of antisemitism but would also be fighting with all his conviction against such hate.

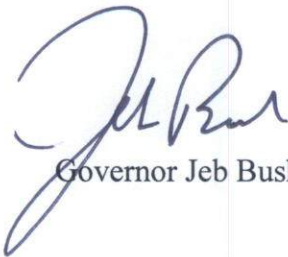
We all should follow the example set by Senator Lieberman and confront antisemitic hate in our society wherever it lurks. The U.S.S. Joseph I. Lieberman would be an enduring symbol of his legacy and that antisemitism must not stand in America or anywhere else.

Groton, Connecticut is home to Electric Boat, America's original submarine design and construction company. Senator Lieberman led the charge to increase submarine production in the U.S. Senate. For instance, in the late 1990s, Senator Lieberman secured funding to develop and begin procurement of what would become the Virginia class submarines program. He helped reverse funding cuts that would have reduced submarine procurement in FY 2014, restoring \$777 million for Virginia-class submarines in the Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013.

He also spearheaded the campaign to save the U.S. Navy's SUBASE New London during the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process in 2005. As Senator Lieberman recognized over the years, "Connecticut's roots in submarine development as a weapon of national defense traces all the way back to the American Revolution when Connecticut inventor David Bushnell created the first working submarine." In recognition of his efforts in the Senate, Senator Lieberman was made an honorary submariner in 2012 by Rear Admiral Richard P. Breckenridge.

Therefore, this designation of a Virginia-class submarine in honor of Senator Lieberman would be quite fitting. This submarine would embody a great man, a great American, and a true patriot.

Sincerely,



Governor Jeb Bush



Ambassador Mark D. Wallace

Cc: The Honorable Deb Fischer (R-NE)
The Honorable Tom Cotton (R-AR)
The Honorable Mike Rounds (R-SD)
The Honorable Joni K. Ernst (R-IA)
The Honorable Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
The Honorable Kevin Cramer (R-ND)
The Honorable Rick Scott (R-FL)
The Honorable Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)
The Honorable Ted Budd (R-NC)
The Honorable Eric Schmitt (R-MO)
The Honorable Jim Banks (R-IN)
The Honorable Tim Sheehy (R-MT)
The Honorable Ashley Moody (R-FL)
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY)
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
The Honorable Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
The Honorable Tim Kaine (D-VA)
The Honorable Angus S. King Jr. (D-ME)
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
The Honorable Gary C. Peters (D-MI)
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
The Honorable Jacky Rosen (D-NV)
The Honorable Mark Kelly (D-AZ)

The Honorable Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
The Honorable Mike Rogers (R-AL)
The Honorable Adam Smith (D-WA)