



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DENNIS DAUGAARD, GOVERNOR

February 4, 2016

To all residents of the great state of South Dakota,

The USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) is the 17th Virginia-Class submarine, and the first naval ship since 1947 to carry our great state's name. It is anticipated the ship will be launched in 2017 and commissioned in 2018.

The USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) Commissioning Committee was formed by volunteers from across the state. The Committee's purpose is to promote awareness of the construction of the USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790), to provide support for the crew during construction, to help organize and raise money for the events surrounding her launch and commissioning, and to provide ongoing support for the ship and her crew after she is commissioned.

As Governor, I am pleased to partner with the USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) Commissioning Committee in its mission, particularly to bring about a feeling of pride in all South Dakota residents and to increase awareness and support for the ship and her crew. The state is committed to partnering with the Committee and the ship throughout her 35-year life so all crewmembers will continue to know the residents of South Dakota appreciate, recognize, and applaud the selfless sacrifices they make to keep all of us safe and out of harm's way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Daugaard".

Dennis Daugaard