

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott made the following statement regarding shipbuilding and the upcoming Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

"There have been a number of stories circulating in the press on funding for defense programs in the upcoming budget. Given that Congress doesn't expect to receive the details of the President's budget until March or April this year, these stories amount to a lot of speculation. While overall defense spending has grown dramatically in the last 8 years, funding for shipbuilding has not seen similar increases. In fact, since 2001, the Department of Defense's top line budget (excluding supplementals) has increased by 80.8% while the Navy's new ship construction budget has increased only 12.2%. In order to meet the Navy's stated requirement of a 313 ship fleet, our nation will need to build an average of at least 12 ships per year going forward. Today's Navy fleet has only 283 ships, so we clearly have some work to do. As Congress prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to ensure that there is sufficient funding for submarines, aircraft carriers, and other warships. Our nation and our navy deserve no less."

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