

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 11, 2021

The Honorable Kenneth J. Braithwaite  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, D.C. 20350

Admiral Michael M. Gilday  
Chief of Naval Operations  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-2000

General David H. Berger  
Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Headquarters, US Marine Corps  
3000 Marine Corps, Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-3000

Dear Secretary Braithwaite, Admiral Gilday, and General Berger,

I write to commend the Department of the Navy for its commitment to U.S. national security in the Arctic region, underscored this week with your joint publication of *A Strategic Blueprint for the Arctic*. This report illustrates the Department's attention to the future of American naval power in the High North and to the strategic significance of the Arctic region for the U.S. national interest. Melting sea ice and a changing landscape bring with them challenges and opportunities—from national security to trade to energy and environmental protection. With forward-looking naval capabilities, the United States can be well positioned to foster cooperation and be an active leader on top of the world.

The strategic blueprint also emphasizes the state of Maine's work to further U.S. leadership in the Arctic. I am encouraged that the Navy recognizes the important steps Maine has taken to strengthen its relationships with Arctic nations and the Arctic economy. Indeed, Maine's connections to other Arctic countries through the forest products sector, fisheries, shipping, and academia provide an innovative roadmap for relationship building with partners and allies. As we develop and modernize accessibility in the Arctic, Maine will continue to play a critical role in the region.

I look forward to working with the Department of the Navy to implement the Arctic strategy outlined in your blueprint. As the Senate considers the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, I believe we must clearly establish the capabilities required to maintain our enhanced presence and build a more capable Arctic force. I welcome the Department's insights on these matters as we move forward in the NDAA process.

Thank you again for your attention to the Arctic region and for your recognition of Maine's significance to U.S. Arctic strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus S. King, Jr." in a cursive script.

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senator