

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2011

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Mr. Secretary:

We write to you today to urge your assistance in the expeditious caretaking of one of America's greatest battleships, the USS Iowa. Our nation's brave men and women in uniform served aboard the USS Iowa in the fight to defend our nation in the Second World War, Korea and the Gulf War. As President Roosevelt's transportation to and from the Tehran conference, the "Air Force One" of its day, this symbol of American might deserves immediate preservation to ensure it can be forever treasured by current and future generations.

We understand that the Department of the Navy Ship Donation Office has made the formal recommendation to begin the process of converting our beloved battleship into a museum. The undersigned respectfully request your assistance in resolving the Navy's formal approval process as quickly as possible. This unique situation demands a swift response to avoid the damaging effects of the impending winter. If the USS Iowa cannot be moved before the winter months take hold, the battleship would silt and require the labor-intensive and costly act of dredging before towing to its final resting place can commence.

Recently our state's governor, Terry Branstad, signed a \$3 million appropriation to galvanize our state's commitment to the proper home and restoration of our esteemed battleship. Any assistance that can be offered to expedite the contribution of this important piece of our nation's history to the American public would be deeply appreciated.



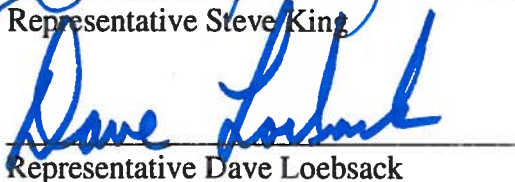
Representative Tom Latham



Representative Leonard Boswell



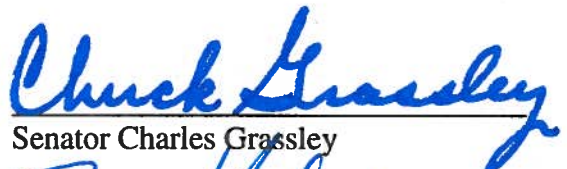
Representative Steve King



Representative Dave Loebsack



Representative Bruce Braley



Senator Charles Grassley



Senator Tom Harkin