

Southern Indiana Leaders Highlight Regional Industrial Strength and SHIPS Act Opportunities Following Meeting with Senator Todd Young

Jeffersonville, IN — County leaders and regional economic development officials from Harrison, Perry, and Spencer counties met with U.S. Senator Todd Young to discuss Southern Indiana’s industrial capabilities and the region’s potential role in supporting the Senator’s bipartisan SHIPS Act.



Located near Kentucky and anchored along the Ohio River, this multi county effort benefits from a major multi state workforce base that blends Southern Indiana’s skilled trades and manufacturing talent with the larger Louisville and Western Kentucky labor markets. Cross river commuting patterns and a shared industrial ecosystem strengthen the region’s position as one of the most capable inland manufacturing corridors in the Midwest.

During the discussion, leaders highlighted Spencer County’s significant industrial footprint, which includes Cleveland Cliffs’ major steel operations, inland shipbuilding capabilities at Corn Island Shipyard, a multi terminal river logistics network, and advanced energy infrastructure near the Rockport Generating Station. These combined assets enable the county to supply essential materials, modular components, and fabrication capacity needed for modern ship construction.

Perry County leaders emphasized the county’s long established manufacturing and metalworking base. The county has deep expertise in castings, precision fabrication, and heavy industrial processes, supported by a workforce with decades of experience in steel, metalworking, and fabrication. This industrial heritage positions Perry County well for component production under the SHIPS Act.

Harrison County officials shared how the county is evolving into a rapidly expanding logistics corridor along I 64. Its direct connectivity to Greater Louisville and its advanced manufacturing ecosystem strengthens supply chain integration and provides access to a multi state workforce well suited for coatings, inspection services, and supplier network growth.

County leaders expressed appreciation for Senator Young’s leadership and his commitment to ensuring inland industrial regions are fully leveraged in rebuilding the nation’s ship production capacity.

“Spencer County’s steelmaking expertise, inland shipbuilding assets, and access to a multi state workforce give us an unusual combination of strengths directly aligned with the SHIPS Act,” said Brian Greulich of the Spencer County Council. “We appreciate Senator

Young's recognition that our county and our regional partners play a vital role in strengthening America's shipbuilding supply chain."

"Perry County's generations of manufacturing talent and its position near the Indiana Kentucky border allows us to draw from a broad, skilled workforce," said Perry County Commissioner Rebecca Thorn. "Senator Young understands that inland industrial communities like ours are essential to producing the components modern shipyards depend on."

"Harrison County's strategic location, paired with our strong manufacturing base, skilled workforce, and direct access to I 64, positions us to contribute meaningfully to the growth of America's industrial and defense sectors," said Harrison County Commissioner Nelson Stepro. "Our proximity to Louisville and Kentucky's broader labor market further strengthens that position. We are grateful for Senator Young's commitment to ensuring regional partners like ours are included as national shipbuilding capacity grows."

Throughout the meeting, county officials outlined ongoing collaboration to expand modular fabrication, grow coatings and inspection capabilities, strengthen workforce pipelines along the Ohio River, and prepare industrial sites for future federal investment tied to shipbuilding and maritime readiness.

Southern Indiana's multi county collaboration, access to Kentucky's labor market, steel production base, inland shipbuilding infrastructure, and long manufacturing heritage position the region to play a meaningful role in rebuilding the national shipbuilding supply chain from the interior industrial heartland outward while advancing the goals of the SHIPS Act.

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