

Full Transcript

Wow, what a day. Thank you to everybody here from Saronic for making this happen. Today is incredibly momentous. It is why the Vice President of the United States decided all the places he could be today are right here in Brownsville, Texas. He is somebody that understands what you guys understand, and that is we gotta turn American technology and American innovation into raw American power.

And that's happening right here in Port Alpha because of the work of everybody in this room. 3.2 billion in investment, 10,000 jobs over 10 years, that is just incredible. That's how you restore order in this world. This is how you dominate the two-thirds of this earth that is covered in water, and this is worthy of celebration.

I wanna tell you a story here this morning just quickly. In 1882, Teddy Roosevelt was just 24 years old when he published his first book. It was a history of the Naval War of 1812, and he wrote it because he spotted something that nobody else did, that American greatness required sea dominance.

Decades later, as president, he sent 16 battleships, the great White Fleet, sailing around the world for more than a year. Every port they entered got the message, America had arrived. "Speak softly and carry a big stick," that was Teddy's motto, and everybody remembers that line today. But what I know standing in this place today is I'm looking at America's big stick right here, right now, and it goes by the name of Saronic, and Port Alpha will be its home.

The work that you will be doing in Brownsville will send a tsunami of diplomatic, political, and military waves around this world. I hope you know that. And the world will know once again the power at sea of the mighty United States of America. I can hear the tremble in Xi's voice already, and I can see the quake in his boots right now.

He knows that China's desire to rule the oceans is now dead on arrival, and it's because of you and Saronic. And as a member of the House Committee on

competition with China, I can tell you that is important to me. Right now, as you've heard, we produce less than one-tenth of 1% of all global shipbuilding while China dominates more than 50%.

That is unacceptable. But China's dominance ends today with Saronic and Port Alpha. The possibilities are limitless. Dino and the Saronic team are charting a new course and pursuing and pushing a new horizon with new American technology and new American innovation. And I want you to know that we in Congress are standing with you in this fight.

This past year, I introduced the American Shipyard Investment Act. This bill, if passed, creates a 25% investment tax credit for building shipyards, the components that go into vessels, the equipment that builds them. It rises to 35% if those investments are made in opportunity zones just like here in Brownsville.

This means more of Saronic's hard-earned money stays with it to help build out this shipyard, to innovate the next generation of vessels, and to reward those who faithfully lay the keel, pour the concrete, and weld the steel. The message of this bill is simple: you are doing your part for the national security of America, we in Congress should do our part.

So in conclusion, let me remind you that almost 150 years ago, Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt, knew that the world needed a strong America on the seas, and the world, once again, beckons for American strength. Let's give it to 'em. Let's start it right here in Port Alpha. Let freedom ring all over the world because of it.

Do not fail in this mission. Do not relent. Do not give in. Thank you, Saronic, for leading the way. God bless each one of you, and Godspeed on this important mission.