

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2015

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy and Lieutenant General Bostick:

We write to express our strong support for expedited completion of your review of the feasibility report for the Caño Martín Peña environmental restoration project in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), Congress vested the Secretary of the Army with authority to carry out this project pending a determination by the Secretary that the project is feasible. Since enactment of WRDA 2007, ENLACE, the non-federal interest for this project, has worked hard to carefully draft a feasibility report to satisfy the evaluation and design standards of the Corps of Engineers. The drafting has been based on input from the Corps at the district and division levels, and the report has cleared independent external peer review.

We appreciate the leadership you are bringing to bear to resolve any outstanding issues necessary to complete your review of the feasibility report. We are particularly encouraged by the commitments that were made at the recent meeting held at the Pentagon involving officials from Corps headquarters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and ENLACE. Resolution is critical for the ultimate restoration of Caño Martín Peña, so that it can again function as a tidal connection for the estuary system in the heart of metropolitan San Juan, which is home to over two million American citizens.

This project is particularly important for the eight low-income communities, consisting of approximately 26,000 residents, which border the eastern side of this 3.75 mile-long urban waterway. The waterway is clogged with sediment and debris and, as a result, its natural depth and width have been dramatically reduced and water quality has been significantly degraded. After nearly three decades of deliberation between federal agencies about the appropriate remedy for this unacceptable situation, Congress took action through WRDA 2007 to create a process for the Corps to participate in addressing the restoration challenges facing the Caño Martín Peña through its civil works program and to build associated flood control and recreational elements. The planning process for this project has arrived at a critical juncture. We hope that, with your leadership, resolution can be found without further delay.

In closing, expeditious completion of your review should place this critically-important environmental restoration project on track for construction, thereby giving the communities along Caño Martín Peña a healthy waterway, flood protection, and the economic opportunities that they deserve. We urge you to complete your review as expeditiously as possible and, should you deem this project feasible, to advance this project to the next step in the civil works project delivery process without delay.

Thank you for your attention to our views.

Sincerely,



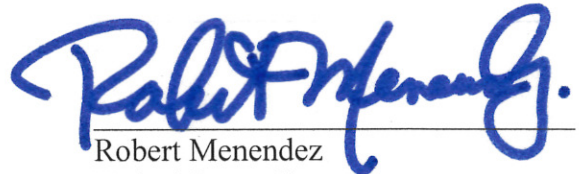
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



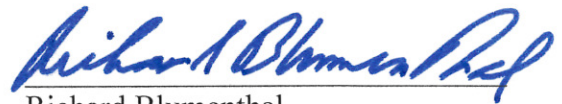
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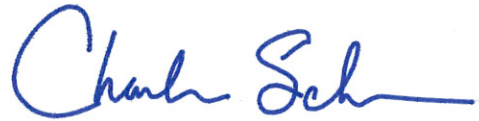
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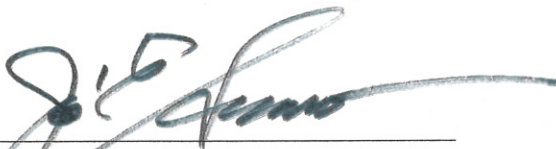
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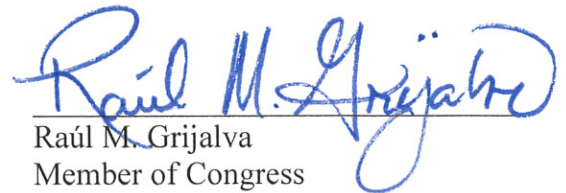
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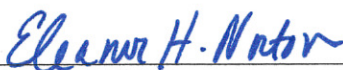
Martin Heinrich
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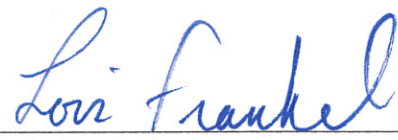
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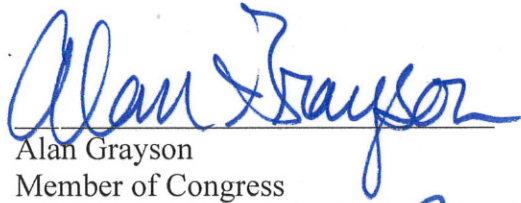
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

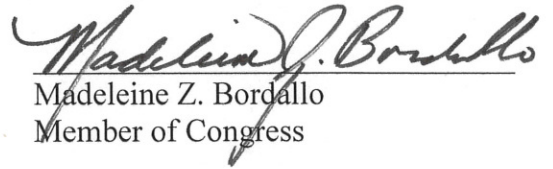


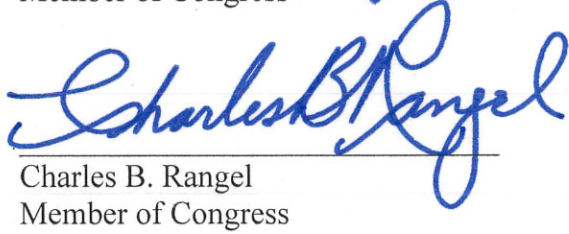
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Member of Congress




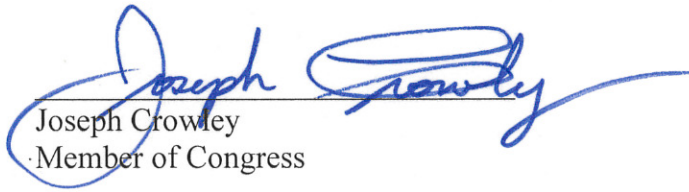
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