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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5400**

March 31, 2023

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The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rose DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a large-scale mangrove restoration and rehabilitation project in the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Puerto Rico in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is The Ocean Foundation, located at 1320 19th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036.

The funding would be used to conduct and expand a large-scale mangrove restoration and rehabilitation (R/R) project in the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the second largest estuary in Puerto Rico and part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Estuarine Research Reserve System. It will include both hydrological restoration and up to 724 acres of mangrove reforestation using the SAFE-Site method, which entails the creation of mangrove "dispersion centers" that enhance natural regeneration. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will help repair lingering damaged caused to Jobos Bay's mangrove forest structure by the 2017 hurricanes, which will in turn significantly contribute to hurricane-wind and flood protection for the surrounding communities and the critical power-generating assets that directly border the estuary.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely

Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress