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

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a coral reef restoration and conservation project—including related capacity-building—in the island-municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico in Fiscal Year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Sociedad Ambiente Marino, located at Calle 3 #1130 Urb. Villa Nevarez, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00927.

The funding would be used to conduct a coral reef restoration and conservation project in the island-municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico that will outplant approximately 7,000 colonies of Staghorn and Elkhorn coral and help build local capacity and expertise in coastal habitat restoration activities. The project is a good use of taxpayer funds because the restoration of corals will help enhance resiliency and provide flood protection to coastal communities and infrastructure in Vieques, given reefs act as submerged breakwaters that reduce wave energy hitting the coastline. This increased resilience will in turn help reduce future costs of recovery efforts in the aftermath of storms.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described 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,

Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress