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

May 10, 2024

COMMITTEES:
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VICE CHAIR FOR INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
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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 debris removal and coastal restoration project in Medianía Alta, Loíza, Puerto Rico in Fiscal Year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla, located at P.O. Box 6150, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico 00604.

The funding would be used to fund the assessment, design, and implementation of ecological restoration techniques for the east coast of Loíza, Puerto Rico, focused on the removal of coastal debris and the installation of living breakwaters and living shorelines. The project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it would contribute to the long-term resilience of the area, providing protection against the impacts of receding shorelines and extreme erosion, coastal flooding, and other natural hazards that make the surrounding communities vulnerable and threaten lives, private property, primary infrastructure, and habitats. This increased resilience would in turn help reduce the costs of recovery efforts in the aftermath of future hurricanes or 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,

Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress