

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2014

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Republican Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Democratic Member
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman McKeon, and Ranking Member Smith:

We write to express our strong support for the enactment of Section 316 of S. 2410, the Senate version of the *Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act*. We urge you to retain this Senate provision as you reconcile S. 2410 and H.R. 4435. This provision was adopted with strong bipartisan support at the markup of S. 2410 by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Section 316 of S. 2410 will provide the Department of Defense with the full authority it needs to remove a public safety threat that exists on the Northwest Peninsula of Culebra, Puerto Rico. The land, which was used as a military training range for seven decades, remains contaminated with unexploded ordnance and other dangerous military munitions. Congress required DOD to study this issue pursuant to Section 2815 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011* (P.L. 111-383). DOD submitted a comprehensive report in 2012, identifying four specific areas on the property where there is a meaningful risk of the public encountering UXO.

Alone among the thousands of formerly used defense sites (FUDS) in the nation, this particular piece of property on Culebra is subject to statutory constraints that—DOD asserts—prevent DOD from carrying out its regular decontamination responsibilities. This is a unique problem warranting a targeted, narrowly-tailored legislative solution. Section 316 would align this piece of property with all other FUDS sites, including numerous other sites on Culebra, and provide DOD with the authority to take appropriate decontamination action. This provision does not seek special treatment for these four areas on Culebra; it simply seeks equal treatment, no better and no worse than is provided for all other FUDS sites.

Thousands of people from the U.S. mainland and Puerto Rico visit Culebra each year. The safety of these visitors, as well as of residents of Culebra, will remain at risk as long as this issue is not addressed. Section 316 is a compromise provision, which CBO indicates does not score, and it will resolve this issue once and for all if enacted.

Thank you for your attention to our views.

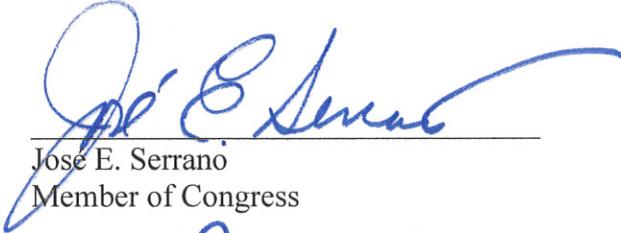
Sincerely,



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



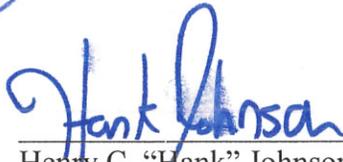
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



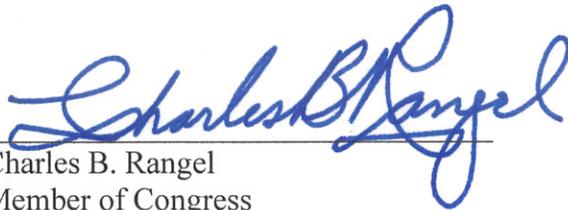
Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



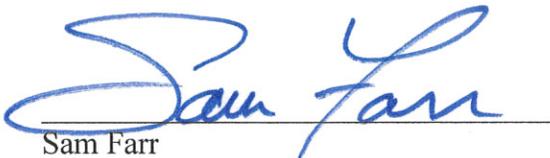
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



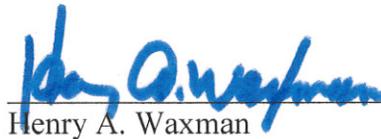
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



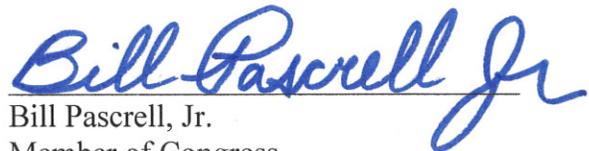
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



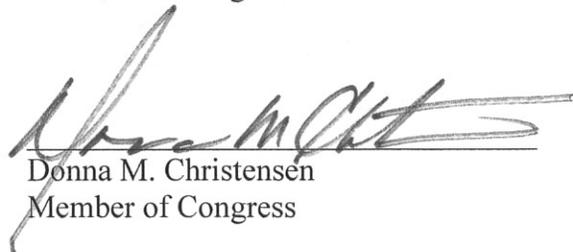
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress

Kilili

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez

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Albio Sires

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Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

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Don Young

Don Young
Member of Congress

Rush Holt

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John L. Mica

John L. Mica
Member of Congress

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

George Miller

George Miller
Member of Congress

Charles E. Schumer

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator