



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

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

September 2, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Moore Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

I write to thank you for the Environment and Public Works Committee's unanimous, bipartisan advancement of S. 4949, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026. This important legislation reflects our shared commitment to strengthening and modernizing our nation's water infrastructure. As Congress continues its work on WRDA 2026, I respectfully urge you to ensure that the following Puerto Rico specific provisions included in H.R. 9497 are retained in the final conference agreement:

1. **Sec. 307, Environmental Infrastructure — Commonwealth of Puerto Rico** — increases the existing authorization under Section 219(f)(246) of WRDA 1992 from \$35,000,000 to \$75,000,000, and expands eligible uses to include stormwater management, surface water protection, and environmental restoration. (p. 295)
2. **Sec. 129, Shoreline and Riverine Protection and Restoration** — adds the shoreline of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under Section 212(e)(2) of WRDA 1999. (p. 87)
3. **Sec. 307, Environmental Infrastructure — Corozal, Puerto Rico** — authorizes \$10,000,000 for water and wastewater infrastructure, including water supply, in the municipality of Corozal. (p. 269)
4. **Sec. 333, Rio Puerto Nuevo Flood Risk Management Project, San Juan, Puerto Rico.** (p. 317)
5. **Section 201, Authorization of Proposed Feasibility Studies** — The House bill authorizes seven new feasibility studies in Puerto Rico for coastal storm risk management, flood risk management, shoreline damage prevention and mitigation, and ecosystem restoration (pp. 127–128):

- a. (83) Ceiba, Puerto Rico
- b. (84) Fajardo, Puerto Rico
- c. (85) Loíza, Puerto Rico
- d. (86) Naguabo, Puerto Rico
- e. (87) Río Antón Ruiz, Puerto Rico (Humacao, Puerto Rico)
- f. (88) Vega Baja, Puerto Rico (Puerto Nuevo Lagoon)
- g. (89) Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

I urge your continued attention to this critical issue and look forward to working with you to ensure Puerto Rico's water infrastructure needs are fully addressed in the final WRDA 2026 conference agreement. Given the urgency of the water crisis facing Puerto Rico's communities, I request that my office be kept informed of the conference process and welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information that may be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress