

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-131 Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218 Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye and Chairman Obey:

We write to respectfully convey our concern with the provision in the Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 2346 or the "Act") relating to the use of funds in connection with the potential release or transfer of individuals detained at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Conference Report to the Act prohibits the use of any funds made available in the Act to release or transfer any individual detained at Guantanamo Bay to the 50 states or the District of Columbia. However, the Act does not specifically prohibit the use of funds for the release or transfer of such individuals to the U.S. territories.

Given the determination that has been made that detainees should not be released or transferred to the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as a matter of principle detainees should likewise not be transferred to any of the U.S. territories. By not explicitly prohibiting the release or transfer of detainees to the U.S. territories, the Act could be interpreted by some as suggesting that the safety of U.S. citizens and nationals residing in the territories is less important than the safety of their fellow Americans residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

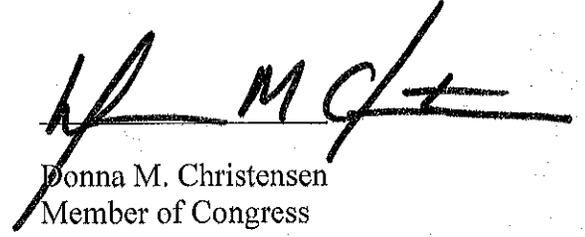
We initially raised our concern with this language on May 14, 2009, at the time the House first considered H.R. 2346. Given the language in the conference report, which will be voted on this week, we reiterate this concern and respectfully request your assistance in addressing it. In particular, we ask that the language prohibiting the use of funds to release or transfer detainees to the 50 states and the District of Columbia also be applied to the U.S. territories through the next legislation reported from the Committee on Appropriations that is taken up in either chamber.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the U.S. territories are treated no differently than the 50 states with respect to the disposition of individuals detained at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

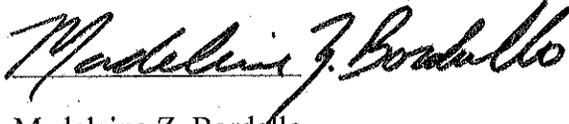
Sincerely,



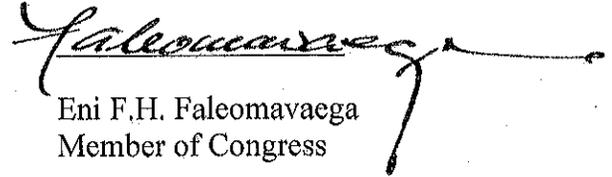
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress