

August 10, 2015

Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Tom Marino
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Hank Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law
House Committee on the Judiciary
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: HR 870, Puerto Rico Chapter 9 Uniformity Act of 2015

Dear Chairman Goodlatte, Ranking Member Conyers, Chairman Marino and Ranking Member Johnson:

We are writing in support of HR 870, the Puerto Rico Chapter 9 Uniformity Act of 2015, which was introduced by Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR). For more than 30 years, TOTE's Puerto Rico operations, Sea Star Line, has provided on-time, reliable bi-weekly container shipping service between the United States and Puerto Rico. Through our operations and the industries we support, Sea Star Line sustains hundreds of family-wage jobs for Puerto Ricans on the island and onboard U.S. flag vessels.

TOTE and Sea Star Line's commitment to Puerto Rico over the years has not wavered and is stronger than ever. Later this year, TOTE will introduce the world's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) powered containership to the Puerto Rico trade followed by her sister ship early next year. In preparation for these new vessels, TOTE and Sea Star have made significant investments in our terminal at the Port of San Juan. We have purchased new cranes, upgraded the berth, and updated our operating system. These projects represent more than \$400 million in investments to the island in order to ensure cost-effective services to the island for decades to come.

TOTE and Sea Star, along with other major Puerto Rican businesses, respectfully urge the prompt enactment of H.R. 870 to provide appropriate and necessary structure for reorganizing Puerto Rico's public debt using Chapter 9 of the U.S. bankruptcy code.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We are ready and eager to work with you to secure a stable future for the people of Puerto Rico.



Anthony Chiarello
President and CEO
TOTE

Tim Nolan
President
Sea Star Line

Eduardo Pagan
Vice President and General Manager for the Caribbean
Sea Star Line