

PEDRO R. PIERLUISI  
PUERTO RICO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1218 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-2615 FAX: (202) 225-2154

SAN JUAN OFFICE:  
250 CALLE FORTALEZA  
SAN JUAN, PR 00901  
(787) 723-6333 FAX: (787) 729-7738

COMMITTEES:  
EDUCATION AND LABOR  
JUDICIARY  
NATURAL RESOURCES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5401**

November 19, 2009

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Attn: Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Administrator

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to request that you give full consideration to the above-listed TIGER grant application submitted by the Puerto Rico Ports Authority. The Ports Authority seeks a grant of \$4,398,405 to reconstruct a dock facility at the Army Terminal facility in the Port of San Juan. The funding requested would provide significant economic benefit to San Juan and to Jacksonville, Florida (the largest shipping partner of the Port of San Juan) by creating construction jobs in both cities and by facilitating increased trade between the regions.

As I understand, the grant funding would allow the Puerto Rico Ports Authority to replace a turndeck structure that extends over the water in the port area and on which barges in the port are loaded and unloaded. The structure was damaged and sank during Hurricane Georges in 1998. After six months, the turndeck was recovered and repaired and has been in service since that time. It is now approaching the end of its useful life.

The grant application to replace this structure requests \$4,398,405 in funding. I am advised that a private entity—the maritime company Trailer Bridge, Inc.—has agreed to fund 10% of the total cost of the project, to pay for any cost overruns, and to maintain the facility during its useful life. As such, this project is a true public/private partnership.

The project is “shovel ready,” and work can begin immediately. The completion of the facility, expected in September 2010, will enable business expansion in San Juan and Jacksonville and provide work for members of the International Longshoremen Association at both locations.

Finally, although the amount of funding sought by the grant is below the minimum grant size of \$20 million, I would note that this project is a significant one for Puerto Rico.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pierluisi", with a stylized, cursive script.

Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress