

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Chairmen Shuster and Bishop, Ranking Members DeFazio and Grijalva,

We write to urge you to hold a joint oversight hearing of the Natural Resources and Transportation & Infrastructure Committees to bring greater attention to the potentially devastating impacts that rising sea levels will have on our public lands, Tribal and insular communities, estuaries, coastal infrastructure, fresh water supplies, and federal buildings. Given the broad jurisdiction of the two Committees over the natural resources and infrastructure assets of this nation, the Committees should be at the forefront of shedding light on the long-term costs that flooding and ocean inundation could have, including increased costs to public resources and to taxpayers.


As reported by the Government Accountability Office, the federal government has significant fiscal exposure from the impacts of climate change—including sea level rise—to defense infrastructure, with a replacement value of close to \$850 billion, and to hundreds of thousands of nondefense buildings and facilities. Rising sea levels threaten public and private infrastructure in coastal communities, from airports to pipelines and homes to office buildings, and could jeopardize numerous public lands. Earlier this year, President Obama issued an Executive Order directing federal agencies to incorporate future flooding and sea level rises into building and siting standards. Given the wide-ranging number of federal agencies with jurisdiction over coastal infrastructure, a joint oversight hearing could shed light on the best practices for agencies working to incorporate new science and weather forecasting into their operations.

In light of these potentially devastating threats, we formally request that the Committees jointly convene an oversight hearing to examine the risks of sea level rise. We look forward to your response. Should you have any questions, contact Logan Ferree with Congressman Jared Huffman's staff at 202-225-5161.

Sincerely,




Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



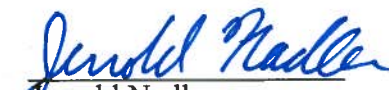
Carlos Curbeo
Member of Congress


Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

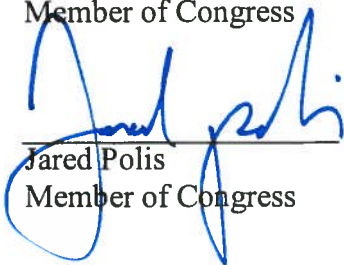

Pedro R. Pierluisi
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Lois Capps
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

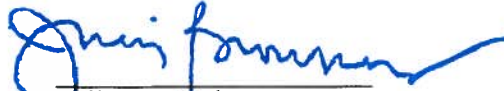

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

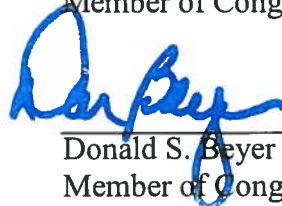

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Member of Congress

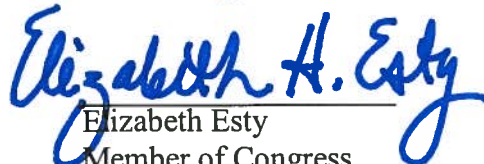

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Libero

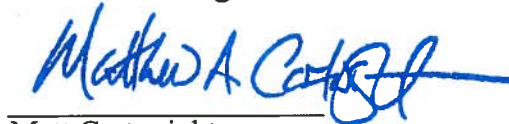

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

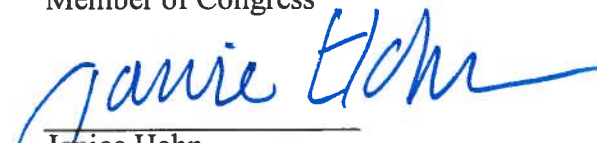

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