

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
U.S Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas,

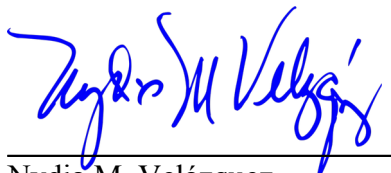
On September 19, Puerto Rico was hit by Category 1 Hurricane Fiona. A significant number of Puerto Ricans have not only lost electricity but have been displaced and are currently experiencing food and water insecurity. The island was already suffering financial difficulties when Hurricane Fiona delivered another crippling blow to the people and the economy that for a very long time, have been trying to recuperate. With the long road to recovery just beginning, we are asking for a one-year waiver from the Jones Act for Puerto Rico.

The island is now facing an unprecedented uphill battle to rebuild its homes, businesses, and communities. Temporarily loosening these requirements – for the express purpose of disaster recovery – will allow Puerto Rico to have more access to the oil needed for its power plants, food, medicines, clothing, and building supplies.

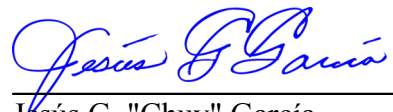
As Members of Congress, we believe it is our responsibility to ensure that the Federal Government promote the economic development and security of *every* community across the country. The people of Puerto Rico have long been denied the same benefits provided to other American citizens. Right now, the stakes are just too high. Therefore, we request the Department of Homeland Security to provide a one-year comprehensive waiver of the Jones Act requirements for Puerto Rico.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

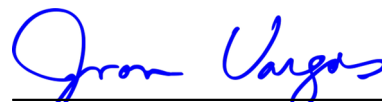


Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



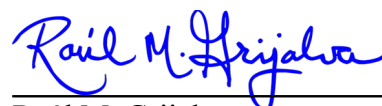
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress