



Hon. Lornna J. Soto Villanueva
Senadora Distrito de Carolina

October 21, 2011

Honorable Pedro Pierluisi
Congressman (PR)
157 Constitución Ave.
Old Tropical Medicine Bldg
2nd Floor, Puerta de Tierra
San Juan, PR 00901

Lornna J. Soto Villanueva
Oct. 21, 2011

Hon. Congressman Pierluisi:

I am addressing you on behalf of a group of residents of the Municipality of Ceiba, P.R. concerned with the transfer of the land and property of the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the different sectors of the community, either federal, state, or local parties involved or interested.

On September 28, 2011, the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) held a meeting to inform the status of property transfers that would benefit the conservation of the land, the developments, and the auctions to be held to sell the same to private citizens, and the transfers to the different federal agencies interested. Also, it would include properties to be used for the benefit of the general public.

The Navy Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program Manager, Mr. Mark Davidson informed the community the segregation of 68 acres of land in which an archeological site called "Indian Rock" is located. The stone is 18 feet wide with petroglyphs caved into it and is located near the shoreline, surrounded by mangroves. This site has been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Navy archeologists have worked with the boundaries of this culturally sensitive area. Although federal law would require the new owner of Sale Parcel I, where the 68 acres are located, to protect the site and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) before any development is made that could harm

El Capitolio PO Box 9023431 San Juan PR 00902-3431
Tels. 787-721-8025, 787-723-0277
lsoto@senadopr.us



Hon. Lornna J. Soto Villanueva
Senadora Distrito de Carolina

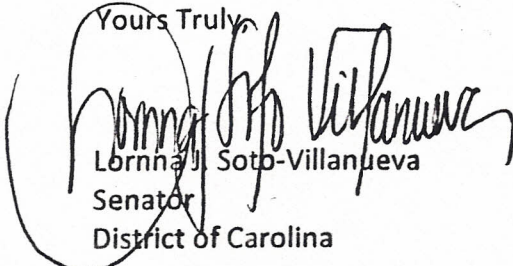
it, community members have asked for greater protection of the site. As a result, the Navy is now consulting with the US Department of the Interior (DOI) about a proposal to "cave out" the site from Sale Parcel I and assign it to the DOI. If approved, DOI would then transfer the site to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources. In the end, it is expected that the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust would manage the site, in the interest of the People of Puerto Rico and the People of Ceiba.

The Association for the Development of Ceiba (APRODEC by its Spanish acronym), presided by Dr. Samuel Caraballo Lopez, has informed us that the Navy remains legally responsible to register this historic site. In addition, Mr. Caraballo is deeply concerned about the whereabouts of over a dozen archeological findings discovered at the former Roosevelt Roads Navy Base that were shipped to the Florida State University by archeological contractors.

As the Senator representing this district I am requesting the assistance and involvement by your office in this matter so that the Puerto Rico State Historic Office assumes jurisdiction of this archeological site were the Indian Rock is located. Also, we are requesting that the Florida State University officials return, with the assistance of the federal government, all the archeological findings that private contractors discovered in and around the former Navy Base located in Ceiba, PR.

Any further questions regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Truly,


Lornna J. Soto-Villanueva
Senator
District of Carolina

El Capitolio PO Box 9023431 San Juan PR 00902-3431
Tels. 787-721-8025, 787-723-0277
lsoto@senadopr.us