



March 17, 2004

Howard Kelsey
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
1322 Patterson Avenue SE
Washington Navy Yard DC, Washington DC 20374-5065

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalism to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Prick O'Brien
Department of Defense
400 Army Navy Drive, Suite 200
Arlington, Virginia 22202-4704

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalism to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Director
Department of Defense
Room 2C426
The Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-3300

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalism to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Senator John Warner
U.S. Senate
225 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., Washington DC 20510

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalty to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Congressman José Serrano
U.S. Congress
2227 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C., Washington DC 20515-3216

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalism to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Senator Tom Harkin
U.S Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, Washington, DC 20510

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalty to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net

daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Senator Mary Landrieu
US Senate
724 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalism to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Senator John Kerry
U.S. Senate
304 Russell Bldg. Third Floor
Washington D.C., Washington D.C. 20510

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalty to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Congressman Luis Gutierrez
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, Washington D.C. 20515

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalty to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Senator John Edwards
U.S. Senate
225 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalty to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Senator Hillary Clinton
U.S. Senate
476 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington DC, Washington, DC 20510

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalism to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net

daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216



March 17, 2004

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez
U.S. Congress
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C., Washington, D.C. 20515-2104

Re: Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

APRODEC is a community organization created to strive for the advancement of commerce and quality of life in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a membership including small business owners, teachers, fishermen, environmental activists and other concerned citizens. We have been active since August 2003 and were incorporated in October 21, 2003.

The present letter is to inform our concerns and of a number of organizations from the local communities for the way the Naval Base Roosevelt Roads closure and redevelopment process is being carried out by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico government. The actions of the officials of the government seem to be directed towards a development designed to favor certain private economic and statewide interests over those of the local communities impacted by the closure of the Naval Station as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC).

The actions and events that make us request your attentions are:

- **The government of Puerto Rico created a redevelopment proposal prior the designation of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).** This proposal was developed without the input of the local communities as required by BRAC. The state government refuses to modify the original proposal even after repeated requests for modifications from local community leaders. There is consensus among the local community leaders that the commonwealth government proposal does not respond to local interest but to statewide interests.
- **The government of Puerto Rico designated an LRA without the involvement of local community leaders.** The only community member involved in the creation of the LRA was the former mayor of Ceiba. Last month, the former mayor resigned to his position and was promoted as State Electoral Board Commissioner of the Popular Democratic Party. He was appointed to this position by Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo Vila, who is part of the actual designated LRA, and is also the Popular Democratic Party Candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico. The former mayor did not requested the formation of the redevelopment authority, leaving open the option to the state government to create an LRA controlled by statewide interests.

Irregularities in the Roosevelt Roads Base Closure Procedure

March 15, 2004

Page 2 of 2

- **This Designated LRA does not include recognized community leaders from Ceiba and Naguabo, towns where the base facilities are located.** The designated LRA contains 9 members of which 6 are heads of statewide cabinet agencies. The three remaining members of the LRA are the Ceiba Mayor and two Ceiba citizens, not known as community leaders but by its loyalism to the government party. No space has been given to any active community groups or leaders in the LRA even when this space was formally requested in many occasions.
- **The governor executive order that created the actual LRA bypassed local community organizations that were already working with communities in the preparation of a preliminary plan for base reuse.** Even when these groups requested participation in writing to the governor, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico governor denied the requested participation and restricted the community participation to future public hearings on the State Government Plan.
- **There is a tight control on the information given by the LRA to community leaders or concerned citizens.** No newsletters, web pages or other open communication practices have been put in place by the designated LRA.

The local communities of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads are asking for your intervention in this case. The BRAC law was created to assure that local communities are the first benefited from the redevelopment of a closed military facility. In the case of the redevelopment of Roosevelt Roads, we are seeing the spirit of the BRAC Law is not being followed. For the sake of an effective redevelopment of the base and the progress and wellbeing of all the residents of the local communities, we are asking for your oversight on this matter.

María M. Avila Soto
President, APRODEC

www.aprodec.net
daly52@zonai.com

787-885-2216