

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2010

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

As we enter the final days of the 111th Congress, we write to emphasize the importance of including all the territories in the reauthorization of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA).

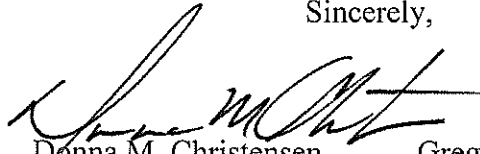
Earlier this week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out S. 3973, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010, introduced by Senator Voinovich. We are encouraged by the progress made to date to reauthorize this successful program, and appreciate that the legislation explicitly provides that entities in Puerto Rico are eligible recipients of the grants authorized under the program. However, we remain concerned that the legislation fails to include entities in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the U.S. Virgin Islands as eligible grant recipients.

Our territories rely considerably on fossil fuels, including diesel, which poses significant challenges for the health of our citizens and the environment. Inclusion of all the territories in the DERA reauthorization would provide our jurisdictions with the opportunity to access currently unavailable resources that are necessary to retrofit existing equipment and implement new emissions control technologies.

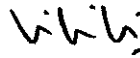
When the House Committee on Energy and Commerce introduced landmark energy legislation, section 128 of the final version of H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, guaranteed that DERA's benefits would be provided to all U.S. jurisdictions, including the territories. We understand that the Committee is working to ensure that our jurisdictions are included in this crucial program, and we are grateful for these efforts.

We remain willing to provide any assistance needed to accomplish this goal and ensure all of the territories are made eligible for DERA programs. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



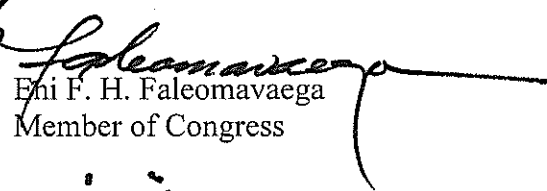
Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Ehi F. H. Faleomavaega
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