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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
August 17, 2018

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE
REGIONAL WHIP

RDML Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., USN Ret.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Re: Limetree Bay Terminals, LLC, St. Croix, Virgin Islands USACE
Permitting of Single Point Mooring**

Dear RDML Gaulladet and Mr. Oliver:

I am writing to request your urgent assistance with the federal permitting of an energy infrastructure project that is a top priority for the economic recovery of the U.S. Virgin Islands, as described in the attached letter from Governor Mapp. The permit application to install a single point mooring buoy system to allow the Limetree Bay Terminals facility in St. Croix to receive shipments from very large bulk fuel carriers, has now been pending for one year. As a result of the delay in issuance of the permit, Limetree has incurred extraordinary costs and any further delay threatens to push the project timeline into the height of the 2018 hurricane season and further delays.

The project presents only minimal environmental impacts, but final authorization by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cannot be issued before consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Endangered Species Act are complete. Accordingly, I ask that the pending consultations be given a top priority within your agency and are concluded as expeditiously as possible. The project sponsor is working diligently with both the Corps and NMFS to complete the required consultations.

I would appreciate any assistance you can offer to expedite the issuance of the final permit and look forward to hearing back from you. I can be reached at (202) 225-1790 or a member of your staff can reach Angeline M. Jabbar in my office at (202) 226-7978.

Sincerely,



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress (D- VI)

cc:

Rickey Dale James
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
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James Cason
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Thomas Smith
Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers