

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 12, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

We write to request the Environmental Protection Agency's consider addressing an urgent drinking water emergency affecting the people of Puerto Rico. In early June, the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) detected a rupture in a 72-inch Superaqueduct transmission line. Despite repairs to this fracture, outdated infrastructure continues to cause significant interruptions in water service, leaving roughly 3 million residents with inconsistent access to drinking water. This crisis is further intensified by a worsening drought, with the U.S. Drought Monitor designating more than half of the island as experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. As a result, hundreds of thousands of residents are forced to ration their water supply and go as long as two days without running water.

The island's water system has carried the weight of an aging infrastructure for decades. Experts estimate that 60 percent of the island's water supply is lost due to leaks in aging infrastructure. In addition, extreme weather events such as Hurricanes Irma and Maria have further weakened water infrastructure and reduced system resilience. Together, these challenges underscore the urgent need to repair and modernize systems that remain exceedingly inconsistent.

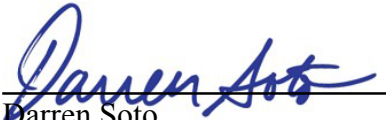
Since this crisis began, residents have been forced to buy potable water, spend money at laundromats, and haul heavy buckets up several flights of stairs to wash dishes, flush toilets and take showers. The strain falls hardest on those least able to bear it: lower-income households, older adults, and people with disabilities, with community leaders noting that some have been hospitalized as the water shortages persist.

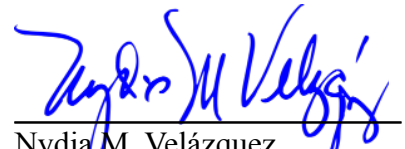
There is a dire need to allocate the necessary resources to confront this worsening crisis and to repair the underlying causes of Puerto Rico's deteriorating drinking water infrastructure. We write to urge the EPA to act swiftly and consider deploying short-term support while advancing long-term infrastructure improvements to strengthen system reliability and prevent future crises like the one currently burdening the residents of Puerto Rico.

We welcome the opportunity to work with your team to ensure these resources reach families as quickly as possible and to support the island's water infrastructure as a shared priority.

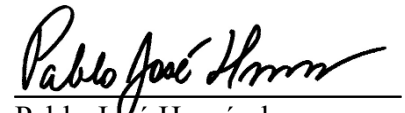
Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this urgent matter, consistent with applicable statute and agency guidelines.

Sincerely,


Darren Soto
Member of Congress


Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress

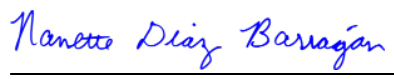

Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress

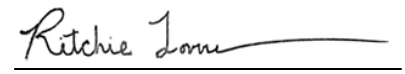

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

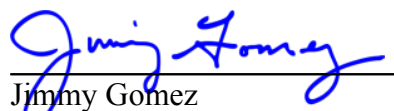

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

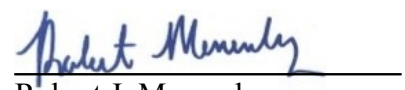

Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress


Nellie Pou
Member of Congress


Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Ritchie Torres
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Jimmy Gomez
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Robert J. Menendez
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