

July 24, 2015
L Hon. Alejandro García Padilla
PO Box 9020082,
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Governor Garcia Padilla:

As you are aware, the people of Vieques have been suffering from inadequate ferry service for decades. While this has led to major inconveniences, interruption of tourism (our only industry), and suppression of new business formation (jobs), it has also been contributing to the major health problems on the island and poses a direct catastrophic threat to our safety.

As you will see in the following presentation, the location of the cargo ferry dock causes heavily laden trucks with fuel and building materials to drive through the narrow streets of Isabel Segunda and cross a bridge *at the water's edge* that is safety rated by DTOP at a third of the weight of these trucks. Immediate action should be taken to move the cargo ferry to the Rompeolas as promised years ago to avoid a potential calamity, environmental damage, and continuing adverse health effects of the harmful diesel exhaust.

Money is not the problem, priorities are: any cost associated with improvements at the piers will quickly be compensated for by running the short route using 65% less fuel per trip. The dirty little secret of how we are being recklessly endangered is about to reach daylight.

On behalf of the citizens of Vieques, I request that you immediately jump onto the right side of this issue and make our safety a priority. Do what you and your predecessors have been promising for years: implement the short route for the cargo ferry before it's too late.

Thank you for your consideration.

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