



# Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus

William Delgado  
State Senator  
Caucus Co-Chair

Edward Acevedo  
State Representative  
Caucus Co-Chair

Marie Antonia Berrios  
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Caucus Secretary

Martin Sandoval  
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Luis Arroyo  
State Representative

Richard Bradley  
State Representative

Daniel Burke  
State Representative

Linda Chapa LaVia  
State Representative

Fred Crespo  
State Representative

Elizabeth Hernandez  
State Representative

Iris Y. Martinez  
State Senator

Susana Mendoza  
State Representative

Tony Muñoz  
State Senator

Cynthia Soto  
State Representative

July 16, 2008

Hon. Nick Rahall, Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
US House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall:

As members of the Illinois General Assembly's Legislative Latino Caucus, we join elected officials, community leaders, and academicians from Puerto Rico and the United States in opposing HR 5864, the "Vieques Bioluminescent Bay Conservation Act of 2008."

This bill would unnecessarily increase federal involvement and control over Mosquito Bay, one of the few bioluminescent bays in the world. The Government of Puerto Rico, through its local agencies, is already protecting and maintaining Mosquito Bay.

HR 5864 represents an unwarranted federal intervention in Vieques -- particularly when taking into account the Viequeses' struggle to both regain and to retain control of their natural resources, including land still in the hands of the Federal Government.

We respectfully reiterate our strong opposition to HR 5864.

Sincerely,



# Florida House of Representatives

## *Representative Darren M. Soto*

District 49

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July 11, 2008

The Honorable Nick Rahall, Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
US House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall:

I write to express my opposition to H.R. 5864, the "Vieques Bioluminescent Bay Conservation Act of 2008," recently introduced by Resident Commissioner Luis Fortuño.

As a Puerto Rican, and as a Florida State Representative serving thousands of Puerto Ricans residing in Central Florida, I am very concerned about a bill that would federalize Mosquito Bay, one of the best preserved bioluminescent bays in the world.

Mosquito Bay is protected by the laws of Puerto Rico and relevant state agencies; and Puerto Ricans are capable of managing and maintaining the Bay. The people of Vieques, as well as public officials and community leaders throughout the Nation, oppose the unnecessary and arbitrary federalization of Mosquito Bay.

I encourage you and the Committee not to consider H.R. 5864.

Sincerely,

  
Darren Soto  
Florida State Representative