



**CITY OF SYRACUSE COMMON COUNCIL**

**BETHAIDA (BEA) GONZÁLEZ**  
**President**

July 1, 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 convey my opposition to HR5864, the "Vieques Bioluminescent Bay Conservation Act of 2008", introduced by Resident Commissioner Luis Fortuño.

Mr. Fortuño's bill would convert Vieques' Mosquito Bay into a federal "National Marine Sanctuary". Though the bill provides for participation by the state government in managing the bay with the relevant federal agencies, the mere designation of Mosquito Bay as a federal marine sanctuary entails an unnecessary and undesirable federal involvement and control over Mosquito Bay, a beautiful bioluminescent bay that is already well protected.

As a Puerto Rican, I know full well that the last thing the people of Vieques want or need is for the federal government to take over greater control of their island, particularly after the nefarious experience with the U.S. Navy and particularly since there is no need –and practically no public support- for this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Bea González  
Syracuse Common Council President