

JOE WILSON  
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE:  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
RANKING MEMBER: MIDDLE EAST, NORTH  
AFRICA, & INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

ARMED SERVICES  
EDUCATION & LABOR

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

April 27, 2022

COUNTIES:  
AIKEN  
BARNWELL  
LEXINGTON  
ORANGEBURG\*  
RICHLAND\*  
(\*PARTS OF)

Admiral John C. Aquilino  
Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Admiral Aquilino:

Recently, I had a meeting with former Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo and the Port Authority of Guam regarding the Port's 2022 Masterplan, which is currently underway thanks to funding from the Office of Local Defense Community (OLDCC). This meeting was secured at the urging of Governor Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio.

This masterplan update primarily seeks to present to the Department of Defense (DOD) the opportunity to utilize the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port of Guam to provide critical support for our military's readiness and the Indo-Pacific Strategy. I believe the Port of Guam should be viewed as part of the solution for the rapid discharging and deploying of military assets and its commodities in the Pacific, especially with regard to the Pacific Deterrence Initiative.

The Port of Guam has successfully completed its Port Modernization Program, made possible through \$50M funded by DOD to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to expand its terminal yard. This was due to a significant degree of DOD leadership, including the precursor to OLDCC, in making the case that the Port of Guam must expand its terminal yard otherwise it will become a chokepoint for the Guam Military Buildup.

This \$50M was deposited into a newly created account, namely the Port Enterprise Fund, and administered by DOT in 2010. I understand the Port Modernization program and all capital improvement projects funded by the \$50M appropriation have been successfully completed by the Port of Guam.

As you are aware, the Guam Military Buildup and the attendant relocation of Marines from Okinawa has over the past several years been delayed, and significantly reconfigured to meet the requirements of both DOD and the people of Guam. We need to recognize the urgent need to complete these strategic realignments and Port of Guam modernization efforts if our Indo-Pacific deterrence objectives are going to be successful.

The implementation of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and its components, including the Guam Defense System, requires that we, once again, provide the resources to build capacity and resiliency at the Port of Guam by replacing its aging 50-year-old facilities. In particular, I have been informed there is a pressing need for the acquisition of three new STS Gantry Cranes and the hardening of its wharves.

MIDLANDS OFFICE:  
1700 SUNSET BLVD. (US 378), SUITE 1  
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169  
(803) 939-0041  
FAX: (803) 939-0078

1436 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4002  
(202) 225-2452  
FAX: (202) 225-2455  
[www.joewilson.house.gov](http://www.joewilson.house.gov)

AIKEN OFFICE:  
1930 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SUITE 1600  
AIKEN, SC 29801  
(803) 642-6416  
FAX: (803) 642-6418

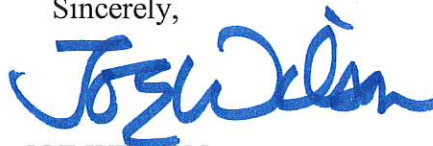
As a member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I understand the significance of Guam in our INDOPACOM strategy and am committed to advocate for Guam's needs. I encourage you to work with the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) within DOT to explore possibilities on how best to secure funds appropriated in the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* to address the rehabilitation and resiliency of the Port of Guam's wharves, including its H-Wharf, and construction of new facilities on its terminal yard.

Thank you for keeping Guam in the foremost of your considerations relative to the Indo-Pacific Strategy. I know you understand full well that the Port of Guam is a critical element in the Pacific Deterrence Initiative. It is a nexus for Indo-Pacific logistics that enables power projection across the region. The current geopolitical landscape involving Russia's war on Ukraine and the imminent threat of China's massive development of its military forces makes the island of Guam strategically important, now more than ever. This necessitates investment in not only military readiness and infrastructure on Guam, but also in the island's supporting civilian infrastructure.

I am confident that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will continue to work together with you to ensure that our national security objectives are achieved in Guam and the Indo-Pacific region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let me know if my office may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



JOE WILSON  
Member of Congress

