

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

March 18, 2022

The Honorable Ed Case
United States Congressman
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: H.R. 6974

Håfa Adai Congressman Case:

I have appreciated and valued our partnership on matters affecting our communities. Just last year, we had a collaborative and productive meeting at your Capitol office regarding support for adequate Compact Impact funding. I hope we can continue working together to find solutions to the recent rising cost of gas in Guam and Hawaii.

Last week, you introduced H.R. 6974, to establish a targeted Jones Act Waiver for the state of Hawaii, in response to the skyrocketing costs of fuel resulting from the nationwide ban on Russian oil imports. Guam does not have crude oil reserves, petroleum production facilities, or refineries. We are highly dependent on maritime shipping to receive most goods into our island, including imported oil from Asia. However, like Hawaii, the Jones Act prohibits us from engaging in trade with foreign-registered ships. Shipping to non-contiguous territories is expensive and competition is limited. As a result, the high costs of shipping are directly passed on to consumers, into the price of everyday goods, including fuel.

This month, the cost of regular-grade gas in Guam has risen to a prohibitively expensive \$5.99 per gallon. Our island is struggling to rebuild its economy after the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is imperative that our people can get to work. The rising cost of fuel undermines our efforts, disempowers our people, and crushes our spirit.

I understand the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is currently reviewing H.R. 6974. I ask that an amendment be made to the bill to include Guam and other U.S. territories as eligible ports exempted from certain Jones Act provisions for the transportation of oil and fossil fuels, to offset the rising costs of fuel. This amendment would directly benefit the thousands of Guam residents who continue to carry the financial burden brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

From: Governor Leon Guerrero
To: Congressman Case
March 18, 2022
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I look forward to establishing an active dialogue with you, as we collectively work to create a better standard of living for our people. Please feel free to let me know how I can assist you in securing support for this measure. As always, my office remains available to you.

Si Yu'os ma'åse!

Senseremente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam