

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2024

The Hon. Kay Granger, Chair  
The Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Granger and DeLauro,

As you continue your work on the remaining FY 2024 spending bills and a potential foreign aid supplemental package, I would ask that you consider including language that would subject President Biden's planned construction of a temporary port facility off the Mediterranean coast of Gaza to the same type of rigorous examination that U.S.-backed projects must comply with under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and other landmark conservation laws here at home.

According to recent news reports, this project will include the building of an offshore pier and causeway that will require the deployment of an estimated 1,000 U.S. troops and take several months to complete.<sup>1</sup> The two-lane causeway under consideration will span more than a quarter mile to accommodate truck traffic and freight operations and will be comprised of what PBS described as "*an array of 40-foot-long (12-meter-long) pieces of steel that can be locked together...*"<sup>2</sup>

As you know, NEPA has long required the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for any action that has a substantial impact on the natural environment. If media reports about the scope of this project are accurate, it certainly suggests that such an assessment would be justified. Moreover, planners should also consider potentially negative effects that the project may have on threatened or endangered species, habitat and ecosystem preservation, and the loss or destruction of any cultural and historical antiquities that might be present within the project's planned footprint.

It goes without saying that this controversial infrastructure project will benefit the Hamas terrorists who continue to exercise effective control over parts of Gaza – along with aid distribution in those areas. The last thing we ought to do is take steps to "fast track" this misguided effort by side-stepping the same kind of scrutiny we would apply to a project of this cost and logistical complexity here in the United States.

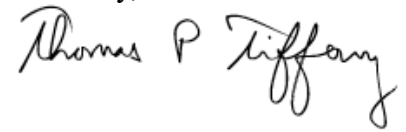
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/03/08/gaza-floating-pier/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-to-know-about-the-floating-pier-the-u-s-military-is-building-to-help-deliver-aid-to-gaza>

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P Tiffany". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress