

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

JOSE D. LEON GUERRERO COMMERCIAL PORT

1026 Cabras Highway, Suite 201 Piti, GU 96915

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NEWS RELEASE

Respicio Urges Reconsideration Vote for Failed Port Board Nominee

Piti, Guam, November 13, 2023: Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio is expressing grave concern over the failed confirmation of former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Port's Board of Directors.

Sen. Guthertz received seven votes. Voting in her favor were Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda Shelton, Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Senator Roy Quinata, Senator William Parkinson, Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, and Senator Chris Duenas.

Respicio wrote to the senators who did not vote in favor of Guthertz and noted that this legislative rejection comes at a crucial time for the Port. They include Speaker Therese Terlaje, Senator Sabina Perez, Senator Chris Barnett, Senator Jesse Lujan, Senator Frank Blas Jr., Senator Telo Taitague, Senator Thomas Fisher and Senator Joanne Brown.

"In the past five years, our 2023 master plan and Port Readiness plan have clearly defined the Port's crucial role in supporting not only our island and region's commercial and economic activities but also its critical role in military readiness in the face of looming geopolitical threats," Respicio wrote. "The inability to meet quorum due to your decision hampers our ability to effectively oversee and advance these vital functions due to the lack of a duly constituted board."

Judith P. Guthertz is recognized for her extensive experience in public administration and ethics, and her involvement in Guam's educational institutions, qualities that make her an exceptional candidate for the Board. Governor Lou Leon Guerrero's choice to renominate her highlights her immense value to both the Board and the Port community, Respicio added.

The General Manager raised concerns that those voting against former Senator Guthertz seemed influenced by another sitting senator's agenda, prioritizing political considerations over the welfare of the Port and the community. Such actions, Respicio noted, compromise the integrity and effectiveness of the governing body, referring to the Guam Legislature.

Respicio in his letter addressed to the no voters, strongly urged them to reconsider their decision, emphasizing the risk this poses to the Port's operations and its crucial role in the region. Respicio said, "A favorable reassessment would not only demonstrate your commitment to the Port's continued success and our community's well-being but also ensure that the Port does not regress to the challenging times experienced under my predecessor."

The General Manager remains open to further discussions to find a collaborative solution that benefits the Port and the community at large.



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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Speaker Terlaje:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

Your legislative rejection comes at a pivotal moment for the Port of Guam. In the past five years, our 2023 master plan and Port Readiness plan have clearly defined the Port's crucial role in supporting not only our island and region's commercial and economic activities but also its critical role in military readiness in the face of looming geopolitical threats. The inability to meet quorum due to your decision hampers our ability to effectively oversee and advance these vital functions due to the lack of a duly constituted board. Furthermore, the success and strong leadership provided by our Port's Board of Directors under the tenure of Dr. Guthertz tenure was a contributing factor to the favorable credit ratings issued by both the S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service. The lack of a quorum for Guam's most vital agency has the potential to jeopardize future rating reviews and reduce our credit rating status, and subsequent potential increases in the Port's interest rates would have a negative impact on Guam's entire economy.

Former Senator Guthertz's extensive experience in teaching public administration and ethics at the University of Guam, combined with her involvement in our island's educational institutions, makes her exceptionally qualified for this position. Governor Lou Leon Guerrero's decision to re-nominate her underscores her immense value to the Board and the Port community.

Your decision to vote against Sen. Guthertz, seemingly swayed by the agenda of another sitting senator, raises serious concerns about the prioritization of political considerations over the Port's needs and our community's welfare. Such actions threaten the integrity and effectiveness of our governing body. It is crucial that decisions of this magnitude are made with a commitment to fairness, transparency, and the public good, rather than being influenced by personal or political agendas.

Letter to Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
November 13, 2023
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I am open to discussing this matter further and hope we can find a collaborative solution that benefits the Port and our community. Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial issue and I look forward to your support for the reconsideration of Dr. Guthertz as a member of the Board of Directors for the Port Authority of Guam.

Sincerely,


RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio
Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz
Port Board of Director Dorothy P. Harris
Port Board of Director Conchita S.N. Taitano
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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Sabina F. Perez
Senator
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Perez:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

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Your decision to vote against Sen. Guthertz, seemingly swayed by the agenda of another sitting senator, raises serious concerns about the prioritization of political considerations over the Port's needs and our community's welfare. Such actions threaten the integrity and effectiveness of our governing body. It is crucial that decisions of this magnitude are made with a commitment to fairness, transparency, and the public good, rather than being influenced by personal or political agendas.

Letter to Senator Sabina F. Perez
November 13, 2023
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This decision risks hindering the Port's operations at a critical juncture, potentially affecting not just our commercial activities, but also the Port's role in military readiness in the face of growing geopolitical threats. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision in light of these considerations. A favorable reassessment would not only demonstrate your commitment to the Port's continued success and our community's well-being but also ensure that the Port does not regress to the challenging times experienced under my predecessor.

I am open to discussing this matter further and hope we can find a collaborative solution that benefits the Port and our community. Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial issue and I look forward to your support for the reconsideration of Dr. Guthertz as a member of the Board of Directors for the Port Authority of Guam.

Sincerely,


RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio
Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz
Port Board of Director Dorothy P. Harris
Port Board of Director Conchita S.N. Taitano
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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Chris Barnett
Senator
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Barnett:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

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Your decision to vote against Sen. Guthertz, seemingly swayed by the agenda of another sitting senator, raises serious concerns about the prioritization of political considerations over the Port's needs and our community's welfare. Such actions threaten the integrity and effectiveness of our governing body. It is crucial that decisions of this magnitude are made with a commitment to fairness, transparency, and the public good, rather than being influenced by personal or political agendas.

Letter to Senator Chris Barnett
November 13, 2023
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I am open to discussing this matter further and hope we can find a collaborative solution that benefits the Port and our community. Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial issue and I look forward to your support for the reconsideration of Dr. Guthertz as a member of the Board of Directors for the Port Authority of Guam.

Sincerely,


RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio
Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz
Port Board of Director Dorothy P. Harris
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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Senator
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
DNA Building, Suite 502
238 Archbishop Flores Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Blas:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

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Letter to Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.

November 13, 2023

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Sincerely,



RORY J. RESPICIO

General Manager

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio
Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz
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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Joanne M. Brown
Senator
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Brown:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

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Your decision to vote against Sen. Guthertz raises serious concerns about the prioritization of political considerations over the Port's needs and our community's welfare. Such actions threaten the integrity and effectiveness of our governing body. It is crucial that decisions of this magnitude are made with a commitment to fairness, transparency, and the public good, rather than being influenced by personal or political agendas.

Letter to Senator Joanne M. Brown
November 13, 2023
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I am open to discussing this matter further and hope we can find a collaborative solution that benefits the Port and our community. Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial issue and I look forward to your support for the reconsideration of Dr. Guthertz as a member of the Board of Directors for the Port Authority of Guam.

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RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
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Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz
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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Thomas J. Fisher
Senator
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Suite 100 Calvo-Arriola Building
259 Martyr Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Fisher:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

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Your decision to vote against Sen. Guthertz, seemingly swayed by the agenda of another sitting senator, raises serious concerns about the prioritization of political considerations over the Port's needs and our community's welfare. Such actions threaten the integrity and effectiveness of our governing body. It is crucial that decisions of this magnitude are made with a commitment to fairness, transparency, and the public good, rather than being influenced by personal or political agendas.

Letter to Senator Thomas J. Fisher
November 13, 2023
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Sincerely,


RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio
Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda L. Shelton
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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Jesse A. Lujan
Vice Chairman, Committee on Maritime Transportation
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Suite 100 Calvo-Arriola Building
259 Martyr Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Lujan:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

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Letter to Senator Jesse A. Lujan

November 13, 2023

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RORY J. RESPICIO

General Manager

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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

November 13, 2023

Honorable Telo T. Taitague
Senator
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan
DNA Building, Suite 309
238 Archbishop Flores Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Taitague:

As the General Manager of the Port of Guam, I am responsible for its day-to-day operations and charged with executing the strategic direction of the Port, as directed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors. In this capacity, I wish to express my grave concern regarding your recent vote against confirming former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Board of Directors and I ask for your reconsideration on this critical issue.

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Letter to Senator Telo T. Taitague
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This decision risks hindering the Port's operations at a critical juncture, potentially affecting not just our commercial activities, but also the Port's role in military readiness in the face of growing geopolitical threats. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision in light of these considerations. A favorable reassessment would not only demonstrate your commitment to the Port's continued success and our community's well-being but also ensure that the Port does not regress to the challenging times experienced under my predecessor.

I am open to discussing this matter further and hope we can find a collaborative solution that benefits the Port and our community. Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial issue and I look forward to your support for the reconsideration of Dr. Guthertz as a member of the Board of Directors for the Port Authority of Guam.

Sincerely,



RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio
Port Oversight Chair Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Former Senator Dr. Judith P. Guthertz
Port Board of Director Dorothy P. Harris
Port Board of Director Conchita S.N. Taitano
Port Authority of Guam Employees