

2011-K1348

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing the New York State Congressional delegation to support enactment of H.R. 1645, known as the Vieques Recovery and Development Act of 2011

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican island of Vieques served as a military installation for over 60 years, and was used as a test site for chemicals and toxins including napalm, agent orange, depleted uranium, white phosphorus, arsenic, benzene and others; and

WHEREAS, A greater percentage of Puerto Ricans serve in the military than any state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 10,000 people live on Vieques, and over 70% of this population is comprised of children and senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency had tested the air and soil on the island and determined that they were both highly contaminated; and

WHEREAS, The beautiful island of Vieques remains contaminated with toxic chemicals and its residents are over 200% more likely to develop cancer and significantly more likely to develop birth defects, diabetes, hypertension and other pulmonary ailments; and

WHEREAS, Through the United States Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the federal government has expressly acknowledged Vieques' high cancer rates; the elected officials throughout the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have unanimously urged that the public health crisis that currently exists on the island be addressed in a prompt and comprehensive manner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to support enactment of H.R. 1645, known as the Vieques Recovery and Development Act of 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the Congressional delegation from the State of New York.