



April 1, 2022

Ms. Bethzaida E. Carranza
Executive Director
Panama Secretariat for Environmental Enforcement Matters
Panamá City, Panamá

Dear Ms. Carranza:

With this letter, the United States of America is pleased to transmit its vote to instruct the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) Secretariat for Environmental Enforcement Matters to prepare a factual record for the public submission "Marine Contamination due to Hydrocarbons" (SALA-CA-PMA/002/2021).

Sincerely,

Monica P. Medina
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Kelly K. Milton
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
Environment and Natural Resources
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

U.S. Representatives on the United-States Panama TPA Environmental Affairs
Council

**Instruction to the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement
Secretariat for Environmental Enforcement Matters Regarding Submission
“Marine Pollution due to Hydrocarbons” (SALA-CA-PMA/002/2021),
Asserting that Panama is Failing to Effectively Enforce Its Environmental
Laws with Regard to Hydrocarbon Spills in the Taboga Island area and
Rodman Port area.**

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SUPPORTIVE of the process provided for in Articles 17.8 and 17.9 of the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) regarding Submissions on Enforcement Matters and the preparation of factual records;

CONSIDERING Submission SALA-CA-PMA/002/2021 (the “Submission”) filed by Ricardo Wong, President of Fundación para la Protección del Mar (Pro-Mar) on August 20, 2021;

HAVING REVIEWED the Secretariat’s February 1, 2021, recommendation that the preparation of a Factual Record is warranted in this matter; and

PURSUANT to Article 17.9 of the United States-Panama TPA;

HEREBY VOTES TO INSTRUCT the Secretariat to prepare a factual record concerning the Submission.



Monica P. Medina
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State



Kelly K. Milton
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
Environment and Natural Resources
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

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