



**GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO**

**Ricardo Rosselló Nevares**

July 25, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop,

I am writing in advance of your hearing about management changes at the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) and its implications for our recovery efforts here in Puerto Rico. I do not plan to attend the hearing because my attendance would legitimize a political exercise that was organized for the sole purpose of promoting flawed legislation that would severely hamper our reconstruction. As the Committee is well aware, I took office during an unprecedented fiscal and economic crisis that jeopardized the future of Puerto Rico, including two catastrophic hurricanes that left the island without power, water or communication. Our recovery has been complicated by the layers of bureaucracy imposed on us by Congress and federal agencies. Nonetheless, my administration has consistently collaborated with all federal stakeholders to ensure the timely recovery of Puerto Rico.

Back in January, I laid out my vision to overhaul PREPA and upgrade the island's entire energy sector. We have moved aggressively to attract private investment, modernize our electric grid and create a system that is more reliable and resilient. We want our improved grid to produce more affordable energy from more renewable sources for island residents and businesses. This transformed electric system will be a major driver of Puerto Rico's sustained, long-term economic growth, spurring additional job creation, attracting new business investments and serving as a model to the world. The transformation is a complex process, and it would be unnecessary and inappropriate for Congress to give the Department of Energy control of PREPA, effectively robbing the island of a critical resource at a perilous time for Puerto Rico.

The federal government is a critical partner for Puerto Rico moving forward. In order to rebuild our electricity grid at a cost the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico and our government can afford, we will depend on federal grants and technical support from federal agencies. However, any new federal intervention at PREPA could jeopardize or impair our transformation of the electric system. Such intervention would further delay this process and would add to it trial and speculation. The Government of Puerto Rico should be primarily responsible for any decisions that impact our citizens for many generations. Therefore, we should work together, not engage in an unnecessary fight over misguided legislation that hampers our reconstruction efforts.

To that end, I do not appreciate your committee staff disparaging or demeaning members of my team or trying to make me or my government look uncooperative or politically motivated. Puerto Rico faces too many challenges to endure baseless, petty sniping from congressional aides.

**RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES**  
**GOVERNOR**

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**LA FORTALEZA**

I am committed to working with Congress in a productive and constructive fashion, as I have done in the past when hearings have been held in the U.S. House and Senate on the same day, but for that to be possible the terms of engagement must be based on respect, decency and dignity. We look forward to working with you and your Committee cooperatively and want to maintain an objective dialogue to further that aim.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo Rosselló', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ricardo Rosselló Nevares  
Governor of Puerto Rico