



February 12, 2018

Honorable Senator Bernie Sanders
US Senate
332 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders,

One of the longstanding demands of the people of Puerto Rico has been that the debt must be audited to determine how it was accumulated, for what purpose, under what conditions and also its potential illegality. Puerto Rico Law 97-2015 created the Commission for the Comprehensive Audit of Puerto Rico's Public Credit ("Commission"), an independent public entity with the stated purpose of auditing all components of Puerto Rico's currently outstanding debt in accordance with U.S. GAO government auditing standards for performance and compliance, among others, as needed. The Commission was comprised of 19 members selected from civil society stakeholders including: elected officials, representatives of financial institutions, credit unions, academia, and organized labor. Unfortunately, Governor Ricardo Rosselló cut all funding for this debt audit process and eliminated the Commission through legislation.

Now, more than ever, a complete audit of our public debt is indispensable. If we're asked to pay this bill, we want to audit the check. If any part of the debt is illegal, we need to hold accountable the people and institutions responsible.

For this purpose, we have created a Citizens Debt Audit Commission to continue the work done by the previous commission. This new entity will enable us to understand and document the existing debt by compiling the evidence and legal arguments for the cancellation of illegal and illegitimate debt. As you know, over eighteen countries have done citizens audit of its public debt. Our new citizens commission includes experts in public finance and representatives from different social sectors. It does not have representatives of the government or of private banking.

We are a broad coalition of civil society groups demanding and in-depth citizens audit with the support of more than 150,00 citizens signatures.

We would greatly appreciate that you include in the bill, regarding the cancellation of Puerto Rico's public debt, a comprehensive and independent audit in a non-partisan, completely transparent process with adequate representation of the people of Puerto Rico.

In Solidarity,

Eva Prados Rodríguez, Esq
Spokeperson