

November 21, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairwoman Feinstein, and Ranking Member Kennedy:

We write to support current legislative efforts to include \$5 billion in federal funding in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill for rooftop solar and storage in Puerto Rico to help low income and vulnerable households on the island. In the face of increasingly severe storms and a significantly challenged centralized grid, Puerto Rico continues to experience island-wide blackouts and frequent long-term outages.

Five years after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico's electrical grid continues to have regular setbacks that impact those who lack resources the most. The Puerto Rican government's privatization initiative, which led to a contract with LUMA Energy, resulted in significant service issues and poor service restoration after Hurricane Fiona. As religious organizations that provide places to worship, meeting place and community offerings to our congregations, non-profits that operate every day to make the lives of Puerto Ricans better, and businesses that offer goods and services to the affected households, we have seen firsthand the struggle that hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans go through whenever there is an extreme weather event or the grid has issues, which unfortunately is a regular occurrence on the island.

Congress has the ability to create a distributed climate-resilient power system that saves lives that are needlessly lost with each serious weather event. An allocation of \$5 billion in federal funds for rooftop solar and storage would help ensure that Puerto Rico's low income and vulnerable populations can remain in their homes, and everyday lives in Puerto Rico can continue because people can rely on their power source no matter whether the island is dealing with an extreme weather event or another issue impacting the grid's performance.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

CC: The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader

Name of endorsing NGO

Boricuas Unidos en la Diáspora

CAMBIO

Solar United Neighbors

Amigos del Río Guaynabo

La Coalición Organizaciones Anti-Incineración

Service Employees International Union (SEIU),
Mairym Ramos-Salinas

Basura Cero Arecibo, Javier Biaggi Caballero

Alianza Comunitaria Ambiental del Sureste
(ACASE)

Ciudadanos en Defensa del Ambiente de
Arecibo (CEDDA)

Corporación Comunitaria Caño Tiburones
(COCOCATI)

Yabucoños por Calidad de Vida (YUCAE)

Sierra Club Puerto Rico

UTIER

El Instituto Nacional de Energía y Sostenibilidad
Isleña (INESI)

Sindicato Puertorriqueño de Trabajadores y
Trabajadoras, SPT/SEIU Local 1996

Arrecifes Pro Ciudad, Inc.

Environmental Defense Fund

Puerto Ricans in Minnesota Committee

The Florida Immigrant Coalition

Puerto Rican Cultural Center

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Sea Grant Puerto Rico, UPR Mayagüez

Power4PR

Alianza for Progress

EarthJustice

Oxfam

Name of endorsing Churches

Mon. Roberto O. González Nieves, ofm.
Arzobispo de San Juan de Puerto Rico

Hermanas Dominicanas de la Santa Cruz, Hna.
Lissette A. Avilés-Ríos, op, Area Metro PR

Sínodo del Caribe de la Iglesia Evangélica
Luterana en América, Rvda. Idalia Negron
Caamaño

La Hermandad Pastoral de Puerto Nuevo, Rvdo
Carlos Negron Sanchez

La Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en
Puerto Rico, Rvda Hilda E. Robles

La Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) de
Sonadora

Red Continental Cristiana por la Paz
(RECONPAZ)

Iglesias Bautista de Puerto Rico, Rvdo. Edgardo
Caraballo Marin, Ministro Ejecutivo

Name of endorsing Businesses

Panaderia Park Gardens, San Juan, Wanda
Fernandez

Supermercado Villa Andalucia, San Juan,
Fernando Guerrero

La libreta School and Office Supply, Trujillo
Alto, Emma E. Melecio

Manny's Pizza, Trujillo Alto, Manuel Rodriguez

Farmacia de Trujillo Alto, Trujillo Alto, Manuel
Fuente

Ferreteria y Agrocentro Dejaos Comercial,
Bayamón, Luis Roberto Alejandro Silva

Junito's Pizza, Bayamón, José Manuel Colón

WUPR Éxitos 1530AM y La Nueva 98.3FM,
Utuaado, José A Martinez Giraud

Farmacia Gloriel, Mayagüez, Maribel Alonzo

Farmacia Caldas, Cabo Rojo, Ariel Caldas

Comando El Att, Guaynabo

Alexis Barber Shop, Guaynabo

Greenville Restaurant, Guaynabo

Tony's Laundromat, Humacao, Domingo
Delgado, Aponte

Supermercados Agroval, Guaynabo

November 21, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 U.S Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson:

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We appreciate your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Republican Leader

Name of endorsing NGO

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