



February 28, 2020

Congressman Raul M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

Thank you for giving the Service Employees International Union (“SEIU”)<sup>1</sup> an opportunity to testify before the Natural Resources Committee.

SEIU’s members were among the hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans who took to the streets in San Juan during the summer of 2019 chanting “Ricky renuncia, y llevate la Junta!” The people won a partial victory when ex-Governor Rosello resigned. But Puerto Ricans remain at the mercy of an Oversight Board (“la Junta”) that has prescribed austerity for the people in order to fund profits for Wall St. vulture funds.

It is now clearly time to focus on the people’s second, equally important demand and on the circumstances of the Island’s crippling debt.

As you know, SEIU opposed PROMESA’s enactment from the very beginning. In our members’ view, PROMESA was problematic because it further entrenched Puerto Rico’s colonial status instead of starting a decolonization process. PROMESA also did not include sufficient tools to give Puerto Rico a fresh start in bankruptcy as compared to other debtors. For these reasons, among others, we believe the seeds of PROMESA’s failure were planted at step one, when Wall Street wrote the law to benefit itself rather than Puerto Ricans.

SEIU maintains its opposition to PROMESA. But we recognize that the bill you are considering includes several important amendments that SEIU can endorse given the reality that is PROMESA.

Thus, I write to inform you that SEIU endorses the Amendments to PROMESA Act of 2020. The bill contains several important measures that can begin to mitigate PROMESA’s harm.

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<sup>1</sup> SEIU makes this statement on its own behalf, and not on the behalf of any Committee on which SEIU may be a member in the Title III proceedings. Any opinions contained in this letter should be attributed to SEIU only.

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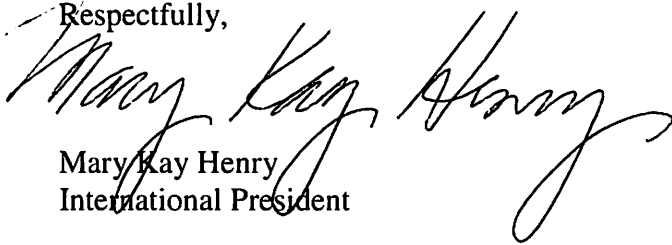
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In particular, SEIU strongly supports Section 13, which is known as the Territorial Relief Act. In SEIU's estimation, PROMESA lacks a failsafe mechanism in the event that the Oversight Board is unsuccessful in restructuring Puerto Rico's debt. The Territorial Relief Act will begin to fill that gap by providing a mechanism to cancel unsustainable debt. The Territorial Relief Act would also provide an important mechanism for dealing with unexpected catastrophes should the Oversight Board's restructuring fail.

SEIU also supports your attempts to bring needed transparency through this bill, as well as your continued support for a comprehensive audit of Puerto Rico's debt audit.

SEIU hopes that one day soon the people of Puerto Rico will be free from the Oversight Board and begin a true decolonization process. Until that day comes, SEIU will continue to support measures like these that ease the suffering of those in Puerto Rico and that provide the Island with tools needed to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Kay Henry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mary Kay Henry  
International President