

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 13, 2021

Attorney General Merrick Garland  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland:

I am writing to respectfully request a report from the Department of Justice (DOJ) on H.R. 1522, “*Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act*”<sup>1</sup> and H.R. 2070, “*Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021*.”<sup>2</sup> Both pieces of legislation propose a different process to end Puerto Rico’s territory status.

The Committee on Natural Resources is the lead committee of the House of Representatives on matters related to the territory. The Committee will conduct legislative hearings on April 14, 2021<sup>3</sup> and April 20, 2021 to hear testimony from local government officials, legal experts, and other stakeholders in relation to these bills. I am also interested in DOJ’s assessment about how the proposed legislation aligns with the constitutional law and fundamental policies of the United States.

Resolving Puerto Rico’s relationship with the Federal government is a priority for the Committee and the U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico. I, therefore, request that DOJ 1) provides the Committee with a Departmental report of H.R. 1522 and H.R. 2070 by May 14, 2021, and 2) schedules a meeting with Committee staff by May 21, 2021 to discuss the results of your assessment.

Please contact Margarita Varela-Rosa with the Committee’s Office of Insular Affairs at Margarita.Varela-Rosa@mail.house.gov or (202) 748-2828 if you have any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources

<sup>1</sup> H.R. 1522, 117th Cong. (2021).

<sup>2</sup> H.R. 2070, 117th Cong. (2021).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, Press Statement, <https://naturalresources.house.gov/media/media-advisories/livestreams-next-week-hearings-on-oak-flat-puerto-rico-status-and-orphaned-wells-cleanup> (last visited April 11, 2021).