

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2016

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

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Chairman Goodlatte:

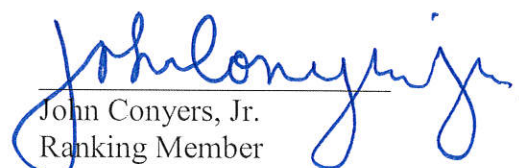
It is imperative that bipartisan, bicameral discussions begin immediately regarding draft legislation to address the fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico. The Natural Resources Committee has held two of three planned hearings, but there is nothing prohibiting our Committees from starting the process of developing a bill that can be reported by Speaker Ryan's March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

The fiscal situation in Puerto Rico is complex and crafting a workable legislative solution will require serious, good-faith effort. As our hearings have demonstrated, time is of the essence. Self-imposed austerity continues to devastate families living in Puerto Rico, resulting in impacts such as special education teachers no longer being paid and healthcare spending being cut by \$42 million this year in the face of the Zika virus, which is now spreading on the island. The Treasury Department predicts that the Government of Puerto Rico will soon run out of cash and default on their constitutionally-guaranteed General Obligation bonds, triggering a torrent of disastrous bondholder lawsuits.

We look forward to receiving your response and stand ready to meet with you at a date and time of your choosing.

Sincerely,

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Natural Resources Committee

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Judiciary Committee