



May 25, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

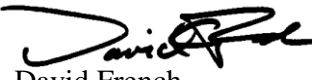
On behalf of the nation's retail industry, the National Retail Federation urges you and members of the House Natural Resources Committee to support H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA). Creating a viable economic infrastructure is very important to NRF members operating in Puerto Rico, and this important legislation would restore much needed economic stability on the Island and enable businesses to flourish.

NRF is the world's largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.6 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy.

In order to ensure a prosperous future for industries and residents alike, NRF believes critical reforms are needed to address the financial crisis Puerto Rico is facing. H.R. 5278 would establish an orderly process for the Island to address its debts and provide the tools and oversight necessary to ensure long-term fiscal responsibility. Notably, the legislation lays out mechanisms to address the Commonwealth's fiscal challenges that are specific to Puerto Rico and therefore do not set a precedent for other government entities, including states. The oversight board and restructuring framework established by the bill will ensure the American taxpayer is not on the hook for the Island's financial woes.

NRF and its members believe that providing economic certainty and regulatory relief on the island will go a long way towards building a better future for all in Puerto Rico for generations to come. The Island has suffered anemic economic growth and low labor participation rates, and is at a turning point in terms of its future. Providing relief from onerous regulations such as DOL's misguided and extreme overtime rule is essential and will help ease that recovery.

We look forward to working with the Committee to advance this cause of a stronger, more stable Puerto Rico and urge you to favorably report H.R. 5278.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources