



April 13, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Jubilee USA we want to thank you for your leadership, as well as that of Speaker Ryan and Representative Duffy to move forward a solution for the financial crisis affecting 3.5 million Americans.

Jubilee USA's founders and members include 550 Churches and Synagogues, and groups like the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Episcopal Church, American Jewish World Service and Islamic Relief USA. Our religious coalition works closely with a coalition in Puerto Rico that represents 95% of the population and Catholic, Evangelical and Pentecostal religious groups. San Juan's Catholic Archbishop, Methodist Bishop, Lutheran Bishop and head of the island's Bible Society are calling for solutions that protect their people from further austerity policies.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Jubilee USA we need to affirm that there can be no economic growth in Puerto Rico until the debt is brought back to sustainable levels.

Congress must adopt a solution that promotes budget transparency, reduces child poverty and ensures strong provisions to restructure the debt in a manner that is timely, comprehensive and orderly.

As you know, we've organized religious communities across our great nation and on the island of Puerto Rico to pray for you as you move legislation forward. As you begin your deliberations, I wanted to share the thoughts of the island's religious leaders.

Puerto Rico's Catholic Archbishop, Roberto Octavio González Nieves, O.F.M., encourages Congress to "work together to find a solution to the crisis that respects the rights and dignity of all sides. I invite the

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people of Puerto Rico and all people of faith around the world to join me and pray for the US Congress as they consider action around Puerto Rico. We also must pray for Puerto Rico's leaders and creditors to work together to find a solution to the crisis that protects the rights and dignity of all sides. We pray that any solution seeks to reduce child poverty on the island and invest in our people. We pray that solutions respect Puerto Rico's democracy. Finally we pray that any solutions will ensure that the debt is brought to payable levels, without further sacrifice to our social services."

Reverend Heriberto Martínez, the head of Puerto Rico's Bible Society said, "It is urgent that leaders of our country and creditors can sit together at the table of dialogue and fellowship to find a responsible solution that does not sacrifice our people, already going to a very difficult situation. Our creditors should recognize that above any further consideration should be the well-being of human beings. The well-being of my brother and sister is and should be our main and highest priority."

We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout this legislative process.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric LeCompte".

Eric LeCompte  
Executive Director

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