



# CONGRESSWOMAN JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

PUERTO RICO - AT LARGE

**Opening Remarks**  
**Natural Resources Full Committee Hearing on**  
***“The Status of the ‘Rebuilding and Privatization of the Puerto Rico***  
***Electric Power Authority’, (PREPA)”***  
**Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón (PR – At Large)**  
**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

**Thank you Chairman Grijalva, Republican Leader Bishop, and Vice Chairman Sablan for holding this important hearing on the status of PREPA’s rebuilding and modernization efforts.**

**There are many issues regarding Puerto Rico’s energy system that need to be addressed and resolved. One of those is the status of the \$2 billion in CDBG-DR funding that Congress allocated in the aftermath of the 2017 hurricane season to improve the Island’s power grid. To date, that money has not been disbursed. We are just 53 days away from the new hurricane season and it is vital that this funding finally gets to Puerto Rico.**

**The 2017 hurricane season unveiled the consequences of the precarious state of our energy infrastructure. Restoring power to every consumer took close to a year.**

**I commend Governor Rosselló and PREPA's current leadership for recognizing the need to change and modernize our energy system. I also commend the effort to increase resiliency and diversify the fuel portfolio with renewables and natural gas.**

**Still, the system remains fragile. Federal support is vital to ensure a secure energy future for Puerto Rico.**

**As the Island's sole representative in Congress, I have made it a priority to ensure Puerto Rico has resources to build a more resilient energy grid, not just patch up the old system.**

**As Members of Congress, we must conduct oversight over PREPA's efforts and ensure federal funds reach the Island and are not delayed by bureaucratic processes.**

**We can now rebuild a stronger, better, more resilient power structure for island residents. I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses on PREPA's ongoing efforts to modernize and rebuild and on how Congress can facilitate this process.**

**Thank you, and I yield back.**