CONGRESSWOMAN JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

PUERTO RICO - AT LARGE

Remarks on Motion to Adjourn Full Committee Hearing on PROMESA Implementation during the Coronavirus Pandemic U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón Thursday, June 11, 2020

I want to briefly explain my vote to adjourn today's hearing.

I recognize that oversight over PROMESA is a legitimate issue within our Committee's jurisdiction. That is why it is so disappointing that today we have decided to carry out this important work remotely, and not in Washington, D.C. as our constituents elected us to do.

The Senate has come back to Washington to work. Businesses and communites across the Nation are reopening and going back to work, following the necessary public health and social distancing guidelines. Essential workers, like doctors and first responders, have been working this entire time.

Why should this Committee be any different?

It's time we come back to Washington to do the people's work. That's what our constituent expect from us. And that's the least they deserve.

It is my hope that after today, the majority will reconsider its decision to hold exclusively virtual hearings. It is my understanding that our hearing room has been configured to ensure the safety of Members and staff, allowing for in-person participation from both Members and witnesses, as well as committee members participating remotely.

That is why I supported today's motion, in hopes that we could reconvene at a later time to properly undertake such an important discussion.