

Committee on Natural Resources
Office of Insular Affairs
Remote Legislative Hearing - Cisco WebEx
May 12, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Legislative Hearing on H.Res.279, “Insular Cases Resolution”

Remarks from Rep. Soto

Without a doubt, the cultural and racial bias underlying the Insular Cases make them relics of an earlier era that have no place in our Nation today. I cosponsored this resolution because the Insular Cases were wrong, their doctrine undemocratic, and their bias abhorrent. However, some of the resolution’s language confuses the territories’ status, blaming the *Cases* for a lack of voting rights and access to federal programs. The Constitution is clear, it is Congress that holds the full power over the governing and fate of the territories. Thus, should a territory wish to change its designation, only Congress can grant statehood, nationhood, or provide a Constitutional amendment. For Puerto Ricans, the solution is clear. They have voted over and over again to be granted statehood and it is time to listen.