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Written Statement

U.S. House of Representatives, Natural Resources Full Committee

Office of Insular Affairs Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1522, "Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act"
and H.R. 2070, "Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021 on June 16, 2021.

Chairman Grijalva, Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen:

I applaud your efforts in scheduling hearings to discuss Puerto Rico's centennial colonial problem. I have been visiting many of you for over the last 40 years; to get the United States Congress attention to resolve this embarrassing situation of having a colony of US citizens without representation in the government that rules our lives. On many occasions, we have been told the "need to get our act together." BUT it's YOU, the United States CONGRESS, which imposes rules, out of our control, which make it impossible to get our act together.

I am mentioning in my statement, just some of the many decisions that are totally under the responsibility of the United States Congress, with the hopes that you start from there. It's no use to hold more hearings on more plebiscites, when you have made decision to keep us locked under a colonial rule in order to facilitate tax evasion for CFC's, High Tech Corps, the very wealthy from Puerto Rico, the several states, and the world.

THE US CONGRESS has
Allowed Puerto Rico to be an Offshore Tax paradise,
Not allowed Representation in Congress to US Citizens
Not allowed US CITIZENS to vote for the President and Vice President, who determine to send us to wars.

Therefore, I respectfully request that my statement be included for the Record towards the Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1522 (Rep. Soto), titled "Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act," and H.R. 2070 (Rep. Velázquez), entitled the "Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021," on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, and which explicitly says: "with the intent of receiving testimony that is primarily from legal and scholarly witnesses."

We, the US Citizens of Puerto Rico; hereby let it be known, have had extensive patience awaiting for the United States Congress to resolve the status of Puerto Rico! We, the US Citizens of Puerto Rico also want it to be known, a resolution towards the final political status of Puerto Rico is not just a matter for scholars, political parties and vested interests, whom have access to express their viewpoint before a congressional hearing. There is an essential "moral" and democratic responsibility, with a need to conduct public hearing at Puerto Rico.

The US citizens of Puerto Rico public must be heard!

We, the US Citizens of Puerto Rico, therefore request, the Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives submit a bill to the Floor and resolve; the following "dilemmas" which Congress itself has created towards Puerto Rico, which are:

1. Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico

It is Imperative that Congress eliminate the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico.

It has proven to be totally ineffective in resolving the fiscal public debt issue and has probably cost us more than what we Puerto Rican's owe.

If they were "true and competent" experts and advisors, as it was sold to us, in the content. - why have they spent millions of dollars in consulting fees and expenses?

"Professionals have requested about **\$883 Million** in fees and expenses through the Title III compensation process as of March 1, 2021." These are legal expenses for all parties due to litigation. Congress instructed the Board to have consensual negotiations with bondholders but instead they have litigated for over four years.

Reference; (Exhibit - See Page 2)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RyNs4H7yvpk0Pw4DtK57WeHzeZEKggXA/view?usp=sharing>

While the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the process should cost approximately **\$370 Million**. Reference; (Exhibit)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QmLknEwU9P20zP57-SZQieBokBqKieMa/view?usp=sharing>

We, the US Citizens of Puerto Rico therefore; will be over paying a cost of more than **\$350 Million** estimated, due to the actions of the Board.

2. URGENT - United State CONGRESS Modify - IRC Tax Code towards Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is treated as a Foreign Entity for IRC tax purposes. Puerto Rico is a US Territory with US Citizens and should be treated as such. This participation will open the way towards our full participation within the Federal fiscal system.

Reference; (Exhibit)

Source:

<https://howmuch.net/articles/corporate-tax-rates-around-the-world>

3. URGENT - The United States CONGRESS MUST ELIMINATE TAX EVASION SCHEMES which has made Puerto Rico an Offshore IRC tax shelter!

The very affluent rich and powerful, use our beautiful island to evade taxes and enjoy our bankrupt circumstance, while most of the population resides under the poverty level, with the lowest per-capita income under the American Flag.

Reference; (Exhibit)

Source: IRS Seizes Foothold on Puerto Rico Tax Haven Audits

<https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report/irs-seizes-foothold-on-puerto-rico-tax-haven-audits>

We have many more requests for this committee and suggest that it hold a hearing to allow the people whom are actually suffering the consequences of years of the inactions, report and testify.

We, the US Citizens of Puerto Rico are more than tired of observing, selected and handpicked witnesses who do not represent us, or speak for us.

I respectfully and publicly request, that the people of Puerto Rico who agree with my statement to endorse it by sign your name at the end, and ask that it be introduced for the record.

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** Submissions for the hearing record must be submitted through the Committee's electronic depository at HNRCDocs@mail.house.gov.