



**Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos  
Capítulo de Puerto Rico**

June 28, 2021

Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
Committee on Natural Resources

Honorable Grijalva:

I would like to thank you for your time and interest in our people of Puerto Rico thru your work with the Committee on Natural Resources.

We feel our historic battle for the recognition of Puerto Rico as a State of the American Union is coming to an end. It was a privilege to be able to present my testimony on H.R. 1522, "Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act" representing the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Faith Council.

As requested, please find enclosed the response to the question from Committee member, Rep. Sablan for the final hearing record.

On behalf of the people of Puerto Rico and our organization, thank you again for your effort and interest in our cause.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Carmen Cabrera  
President Faith Consul  
LULAC Puerto Rico

1. Like my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico was recently devastated by powerful storms resulting in loss of life and billions of dollars in damages. How do you think the federal response would have been different had Puerto Rico been a state in 2017?
  - First, Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States under the Territorial Clause of the Constitution.
  - Puerto Rico belongs to but is not part of the United States.
  - Being that the case, the United States Congress can discriminate against American Citizens on the island because they are not subject to the same rights and laws as in the mainland.
  - This is a problem because Puerto Ricans cannot decide their fate and can't oblige the President nor Congress to act respecting public policy and quick responses, like is the case of the federal response soon after hurricane Maria.
  - States like Texas and Louisiana didn't have these issues.
  - They are states with full rights and are subject to all the guarantees of the Constitution, differently from the case of Puerto Rico.
  - Today the Government of Puerto Rico is battling in the court equality with Medicaid and Social Security.
  - We have the same problem with those issues as with the federal funds of hurricane Maria.
  - The President can block funds without any consequence because he can do it.
  - There's now law to prohibit it but on contrary, he can discriminate because we are not a state.
  - In overall, if Puerto Rico were a state in 2017, the situation could have been totally different.
  - Immediately we would have received the approval of funds and would be illegal for the President to block them.
  - Also, the people of Puerto Rico could have expressed themselves in the ballots in 2020 for their best interest and benefits.