



**INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS®**

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**LONNIE R. STEPHENSON**  
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October 5, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

On behalf of the more than 775,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing in regards to the upcoming hearing on the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA). As you are aware, the electric power infrastructure of Puerto Rico is in a state of disrepair due to years of neglect that Hurricanes Irma and Maria tragically exacerbated in 2017. While there is no overnight fix for this situation, I am confident that the IBEW can play a key role in its restoration with our members' skills, expertise, and training.

The IBEW has partnered with LUMA Energy, which maintains the power infrastructure in the commonwealth, and signed the first collective bargaining agreement at the utility in more than a decade. With it, the IBEW will ensure a skilled, professionalized workforce that will finally lead to the energy transformation in Puerto Rico. Additionally, the IBEW and LUMA have reached a project labor agreement that guarantees any utilization of federal funding will only be executed by qualified IBEW members earning fair wages under local hire provisions. This will ensure that the community-sustaining benefits of union careers stay in Puerto Rico. The PLA framework also assures that federal funds will be effectively spent on transforming the electricity system, not wasted on temporary, inadequate fixes by under-trained technicians.

After years of underinvestment, delivering Puerto Rico's modern, sustainable, world-class energy system requires a successful partnership between the utility and its workers. Shortcuts will only result in further failure. The IBEW's continued collaboration is a major first step in the energy infrastructure's transformation, and our members appreciate your support for this critical effort.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson  
International President

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