Dear Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairwoman Feinstein, and Ranking Member Kennedy:

We write to support current legislative efforts to include $5 billion in federal funding in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill for rooftop solar and storage in Puerto Rico to help low income and vulnerable households on the island. In the face of increasingly severe storms and a significantly challenged centralized grid, Puerto Rico continues to experience island-wide blackouts and frequent long-term outages.

Five years after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico’s electrical grid continues to have regular setbacks that impact those who lack resources the most. The Puerto Rican government’s privatization initiative, which led to a contract with LUMA Energy, resulted in significant service issues and poor service restoration after Hurricane Fiona. As religious organizations that provide places to worship, meeting place and community offerings to our congregations, non-profits that operate every day to make the lives of Puerto Ricans better, and businesses that offer goods and services to the affected households, we have seen firsthand the struggle that hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans go through whenever there is an extreme weather event or the grid has issues, which unfortunately is a regular occurrence on the island.

Congress has the ability to create a distributed climate-resilient power system that saves lives that are needlessly lost with each serious weather event. An allocation of $5 billion in federal funds for rooftop solar and storage would help ensure that Puerto Rico’s low income and vulnerable populations can remain in their homes, and everyday lives in Puerto Rico can continue because people can rely on their power source no matter whether the island is dealing with an extreme weather event or another issue impacting the grid’s performance.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

CC: The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
Name of endorsing NGO
Boricuas Unidos en la Diáspora
CAMBIO
Solar United Neighbors
Amigos del Río Guaynabo
La Coalición Organizaciones Anti-Incineración
Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Mairym Ramos-Salinas
Basura Cero Arecibo, Javier Biaggi Caballero
Alianza Comunitaria Ambiental del Sureste (ACASE)
Ciudadanos en Defensa del Ambiente de Arecibo (CEDDA)
Corporación Comunitaria Caño Tiburones (COCOCATI)
Yabucoeños por Calidad de Vida (YUCAE)
Sierra Club Puerto Rico
UTIER
El Instituto Nacional de Energía y Sostenibilidad Isleña (INESI)
Sindicato Puertorriqueño de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras, SPT/SEIU Local 1996
Arrecifes Pro Ciudad, Inc.
Environmental Defense Fund
Puerto Ricans in Minnesota Committee
The Florida Immigrant Coalition
Puerto Rican Cultural Center
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Sea Grant Puerto Rico, UPR Mayagüez
Power4PR
Alianza for Progress
EarthJustice
Oxfam

Name of endorsing Churches
Mon. Roberto O. González Nieves, ofm. Arzobispo de San Juan de Puerto Rico
Hermanas Dominicas de la Santa Cruz, Hna. Lissette A. Avilés-Ríos, op. Area Metro PR
Sínodo del Caribe de la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América, Rvda. Idalia Negron Caamaño
La Hermandad Pastoral de Puerto Nuevo, Rvdo Carlos Negron Sanchez
La Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en Puerto Rico, Rvda Hilda E. Robles
La Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) de Sonadora
Red Continental Cristiana por la Paz (RECONPAZ)
Iglesias Bautista de Puerto Rico, Rvdo. Edgardo Caraballo Marin, Ministro Ejecutivo

Name of endorsing Businesses
Panadería Park Gardens, San Juan, Wanda Fernandez
Supermercado Villa Andalucia, San Juan, Fernando Guerrero
La libreta School and Office Supply, Trujillo Alto, Emma E. Melecio
Manny’s Pizza, Trujillo Alto, Manuel Rodriguez
Farmacia de Trujillo Alto, Trujillo Alto, Manuel Fuente
Ferretería y Agrocentro Dejaos Comercial, Bayamón, Luis Roberto Alejandro Silva

Junito’s Pizza, Bayamón, José Manuel Colón

WUPR Éxitos 1530AM y La Nueva 98.3FM, Utuado, José A Martinez Giraud

Farmacia Gloriel, Mayagüez, Maribel Alonzo

Farmacia Caldas, Cabo Rojo, Ariel Caldas

Comando El Att, Guaynabo

Alexis Barber Shop, Guaynabo

Greenville Restaurant, Guaynabo

Tony’s Laundromat, Humacao, Domingo Delgado, Aponte

Supermercados Agroval, Guaynabo
November 21, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 U.S Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson:

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We appreciate your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Republican Leader
Name of endorsing NGO

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CAMBIO
Solar United Neighbors
Amigos del Río Guaynabo
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