

c/o Jubilee USA Network
212 E Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20003

December 7, 2017

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

For nearly two years, we have engaged Congress on issues that are critical for our people living in Puerto Rico. In previous letters to Congress we supported debt relief and efforts to stop corruption. We have asked that US citizens living in Puerto Rico be given the same health care financing and child tax benefits as people who live in the 50 States.

These issues have been also raised by many US partners including Jubilee USA, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United Church of Christ, Catholic Charities, the Presbyterian Church and the National Latino Evangelical Coalition. For two years we focused on the reality that, as Puerto Rico struggled through years of debt and financial crisis, nearly one in two kids lived in poverty on our island.

Puerto Rico was struggling before the hurricanes hit. Now as Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands struggle to rebuild and recover, we understand that Congress is considering a tax plan that could eliminate tens of thousands of jobs on our islands.

Final tax reform legislation must not impose new excise taxes on Puerto Rico that are not imposed on US States. If Congress treats American citizens living in Puerto Rico differently than American citizens living in the 50 States by treating our island as a foreign jurisdiction, we believe recovery for our island home will be nearly impossible. We respectfully request that all Members of Congress ensure that a final tax reform plan does not impose new excise taxes on Puerto Rico.

We continue to hold you in our prayers as you continue the work of Congress.

Gratefully,



Metropolitan Archbishop Roberto O. González Nieves, OFM of Catholic Archdiocese San Juan de Puerto Rico



Reverend Heriberto Martínez-Rivera, Secretary General of Puerto Rico's Bible Society and Coordinator of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Coalition of Puerto Rico

c/o Jubilee USA Network
212 E Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20003

December 7, 2017

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

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