



National Grocers Association

February 25, 2015

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Marino
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law
House Committee on the Judiciary
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Marino, Ranking Member Conyers and Ranking Member Jackson:

I am writing today on behalf of the independent supermarket industry in the United States and Puerto Rico in support of HR 870, the Puerto Rico Chapter 9 Uniformity Act of 2015.

The National Grocers Association (NGA) believes that giving the government of Puerto Rico the authority to authorize its government-owned corporations, if they were to become insolvent, the legal ability to restructure their debts under Chapter 9 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code would avoid additional painful economic consequences on the independent business community of Puerto Rico.

NGA's member in Puerto Rico, CAMARA DE MERCADEO, INDUSTRIA Y DISTRIBUCION DE ALIMENTOS, or MIDA, represents the local, independent food distribution industry in Puerto Rico and is concerned about the impact on its members of the collapse of the Commonwealth's government owned corporations. The economic situation in Puerto Rico, after a decade of deep recession, would only worsen if this were allowed to happen, endangering the financial stability of these businesses and the continuation of the jobs they provide to the island's population.

There is no reason why Puerto Rico shouldn't have the same authority as the fifty states to authorize its financially distressed government entities to restructure under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. It is a common sense solution that is in the best interest of the Commonwealth's government owned corporations, their creditors and the citizens of Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

Greg Ferrara
Vice President Public Affairs
National Grocers Association (NGA)