

SENATOR BOB DOLE
THE ATLANTIC BUILDING
950 F STREET, N.W., 10TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

May 26, 2015

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

Dear Bob,

I write as a volunteer who supports – along with a growing list of individuals and organizations – H.R. 870, the Puerto Rico Chapter 9 Uniformity Act of 2015.

H.R. 870 would grant the government of Puerto Rico the option to authorize its insolvent municipalities to seek protection under Chapter 9 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code. Congress has empowered the government of Kansas, Virginia and every other U.S. state to allow – or not allow – their municipalities to utilize Chapter 9. There is no good reason why Congress should not empower the government of Puerto Rico to do the same.

I was a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1984, when Congress approved the Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act (P.L. 98-353). That law excluded Puerto Rico from the scope of Chapter 9. But Congress reserved for itself the power, at any time in the future, to permit the government of Puerto Rico to authorize its municipalities to seek Chapter 9 relief. Congress should exercise that power now.

By enacting H.R. 870, Congress would be taking a simple, fiscally conservative step to help Puerto Rico – a U.S. jurisdiction that is home to 3.5 million of our fellow American citizens – manage its economic and fiscal problems.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. It's been a long time since we campaigned together, and now you have become a top member of the Republican House. I hope to see you again sometime soon.

God Bless America,



BOB DOLE

cc: The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
The Honorable Alejandro Javier García Padilla