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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
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December 13, 2013

The Honorable Pedro R. Pierluisi
President of the New Progressive Party
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Resident Commissioner Pierluisi:

We are writing to follow-up on the Committee's August 1 hearing on Puerto Rico's political status. The purpose of the hearing was to conduct oversight on the results of the plebiscite held in Puerto Rico last November and on the President's proposal to respond to the plebiscite with "\$2,500,000 for objective nonpartisan voter education about, and a plebiscite on, options that would resolve Puerto Rico's future political status."

Your testimony, and that of the other party presidents at the hearing, confirmed the results of the first question on the November ballot: a majority of Puerto Ricans do not support the current relationship with the United States. The testimony also showed that there was no agreement on which other status options are available to Puerto Rico, or on what process should be used to resolve the status issue.

Congress has not yet made a decision on whether the President's proposal will be funded for fiscal year 2014 and we understand that bills have been introduced in the Puerto Rico legislature to convene an assembly on status to consider future political status. Whatever formal process or processes are used to formally consider the status question, we write to stress that non-viable status options such as "enhanced commonwealth" should not be considered, as they confuse the debate and undermine efforts to resolve this issue of great importance to both Puerto Rico and the United States.

We look forward to your working with the other party presidents to find consensus on a process that will give the people of Puerto Rico a meaningful choice in determining the future of the Islands.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
Chairman



Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member