

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to express our deep concern regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) decision to redirect funding from the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund away from providing the most vulnerable citizens of Puerto Rico with backup power.¹ As you know, these congressionally appropriated funds were intended to provide solar and battery storage at residential communities and health centers across the island. DOE has claimed that the funds will now be deployed to "support practical fixes that offer a faster, more impactful solution to the current crisis"². We, however, remain greatly concerned that the people of Puerto Rico are being used as pawns in President Trump's attack on clean energy, and fail to see a justification for this action.

The long-term recovery process of Puerto Rico's electric grid has been marked by significant challenges, including recurring power outages that continue to impact the daily lives of Puerto Ricans, with one as recently as this past April.³ We are concerned that redirecting this funding would restart the allocation process, delaying timely and needed resources to medically vulnerable populations. In addition, the legal justification for this "reallocation" of funds, with seeming disregard to congressional intent, remains unclear.

We strongly urge you to reconsider this action.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

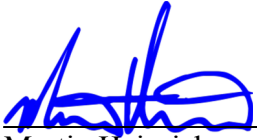


Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress

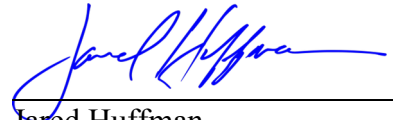
¹ "Energy Department to Redirect \$365 Million to Support Grid Resilience Efforts in Puerto Rico," Department of Energy, May 21, 2025. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-redirect-365-million-support-grid-resilience-efforts-puerto-rico>.

² Id.

³ "Puerto Rico Faced a Massive Power Outage. Why Does this Keep Happening?" USA Today, April 17, 2025. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/04/17/puerto-rico-power-outage-power-grid-problems/83137415007/>.



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



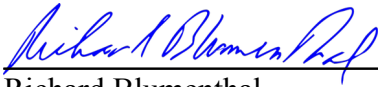
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



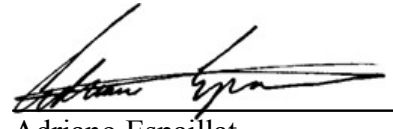
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



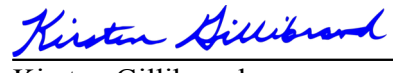
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



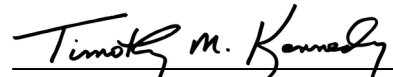
Ruben Gallego
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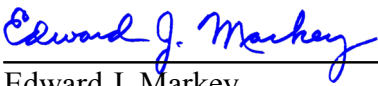
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



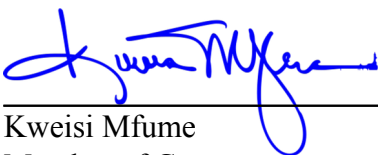
Timothy M. Kennedy
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United States Senator



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



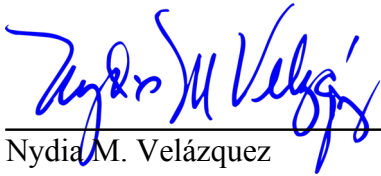
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress