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AGC of America
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
Quality People. Quality Projects.



May 25, 2016

Chairman Rob Bishop
House Natural Resources Committee
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Thank You for Supporting PROMESA

Dear Chairman Bishop:

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) supports the concepts detailed in the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA). As such, we appreciate your hard work as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee to keep intact the components of this bill that will provide sound fiscal controls, an opportunity for orderly debt reorganization, and a means to address neglected infrastructure. These provisions will provide the foundation necessary for fiscal stability and economic growth in Puerto Rico.

The health of the construction industry is a good measure of the health of the overall economy. In Puerto Rico, the construction industry is on life support. The industry employs about 45,000 fewer people today than it did 15 years ago—a 68 percent employment decrease. Additionally, many Commonwealth government entities are unable to pay contractors for work completed on government construction projects. Though this places construction contractors in an incredibly difficult financial position, they are harmed even more by the fundamental lack of optimism that the economy can recover without a significant reset of Puerto Rico's fiscal structures. PROMESA provides that reset, which is why this bill is so important to the future of Puerto Rico and the construction industry that resides there.

The time has passed to point fingers and assign blame. We cannot let the faults of the past doom the potential for a brighter future. Congress must provide Puerto Rico with strong fiscal controls, an opportunity to restructure its debt, and regulatory relief to help the Commonwealth recover and grow. PROMESA delivers Puerto Rico the critical tools necessary to grow out of this crisis and head down the path to economic recovery, stability and growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Shoaf', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director
Government Affairs