

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

January 12, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S. 230 – U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

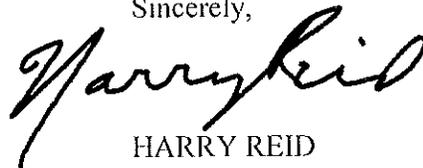
On December 17, 2015, the day before the Senate recessed for the holidays, I stood on the Senate floor and asked Republicans to join Democrats in helping Puerto Rico address its severe economic and fiscal crisis. This week, as we return to the Senate, Puerto Rico needs our help more than ever.

The government of Puerto Rico missed millions of dollars in debt payments at the beginning of this month and is now facing lawsuits from creditors. To offer Puerto Rico temporary relief from such litigation, I joined several other Senate Democrats last month in introducing the Puerto Rico Emergency Financial Stability Act of 2015 (S. 2436). However, what 3.5 million American citizens in Puerto Rico need most is for Congress to pass common-sense, comprehensive legislation that includes a mechanism to allow for Puerto Rico to restructure its debt.

I urge you to instruct Senate Republicans to work with Senate Democrats by appointing a task force of six to eight senators to develop a reasonable solution to this crisis by the end of February. I am confident that six weeks is sufficient to form a bipartisan Senate Task Force on Puerto Rico, negotiate a legislative package that includes a debt restructuring component, and ultimately bring this comprehensive proposal before the Senate. The task force should reflect the leadership of the Senate led by Senators Murkowski and Cantwell.

Given the urgency of Puerto Rico's economic and fiscal crisis, the task force must be formed quickly, meet consistently, and report on its progress to Senate leadership on a regular basis. I would be glad to discuss the structure of such a task force with you in greater depth, but the need for this dedicated attention to Puerto Rico cannot be understated.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID  
United States Senator