

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Fleischmann and Ranking Member Kaptur,

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to provide robust funding for key offices at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that are vital to the resiliency, modernization, and security of Puerto Rico's electrical grid. These offices include the Grid Deployment Office (GDO), the Office of Electricity (OE), and the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER).

Reliable access to energy is foundational to American families, businesses, and public health systems, which depends on continued federal investment in modern, resilient power infrastructure. Recent events underscore the urgent need for continued investment in grid resilience. In March 2025, Puerto Rico experienced a devastating island-wide blackout that left over a million residents without power, including individuals with electricity-dependent medical conditions who face life-threatening risks during prolonged outages. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident as the island also experienced an island wide black out this past New Year's Eve. Given this growing need, we respectfully request that the Committee include the following programmatic requests:

Grid Deployment Office (GDO): This office plays a central role in strengthening our nation's electricity transmission system and ensuring that critical generation facilities are equipped to meet both current and future energy demands. With adequate resources and well-funded staffing, GDO supports the planning and deployment of high-capacity transmission lines, advanced distribution technologies, and backup generation solutions. The office also serves as a vital partner to states, territories, Tribes, industry, and local communities in lowering energy costs and enhancing grid resilience—ensuring the reliable delivery of electricity across diverse geographies and conditions. GDO also administers the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF), a total of \$1 billion funding, which provides essential funding for rooftop solar and battery storage systems in last-mile communities. This support is critical for households with individuals who have electricity-dependent medical conditions and disabilities, especially in areas that experience frequent and prolonged outages. For fiscal year 2026, GDO requires \$102 million to appropriately support transmission deployment and research.

Office of Electricity (OE): This office provides applied research in electricity-related technologies, including grid modernization, energy storage, and system restart protocols. Its work strengthens the reliability and functionality of the grid under both normal operations and extreme conditions. Continued investment will

ensure our power systems remain adaptable, secure, and capable of integrating clean energy resources. For fiscal year 2026, OE needs \$300 million to continue to ensure a reliable, resilient, and secure power grid.

Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER): This office is the federal government's lead entity for energy sector-specific responses to energy security emergencies—whether caused by physical infrastructure problems or by cybersecurity issues. The office provides technical assistance, conducts security R&D, and works with local partners to investigate and respond to events like electrical blackouts. For fiscal year 2026, CESAR requires \$200 million in order to ensure energy sector security and resilience.

Additionally, the availability of energy generation assets is essential for Puerto Rico's ability to maintain and repair its electoral grid and respond to future emergencies. We also respectfully request that the Committee include the following report language:

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Generation Assets – The Committee acknowledges that Puerto Rico has faced various natural disasters and economic challenges that have resulted in disruptions in services, such as a reliable and continuous power supply. Additionally, the generation assets on the island are outdated, with some being at least 60 years old, which makes repairs even more complex. It is imperative to provide Puerto Rico with power solutions that can be installed and maintained quickly while the necessary repairs and maintenance are carried out on publicly owned power plants and, in parallel, new clean power resources are procured. The Secretary shall provide to the Committee not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act a report detailing dispatchable generation assets that can be installed on the island and commissioned to inject power into the grid within 60 days or less and be sustained for a minimum of two years. The report shall also include funding requirements to secure the energy grid as well as how assets can be permitted to operate on an expedited basis without any permitting or dispatch capacity restrictions if required. The report shall also include how the Secretary is collaborating with other heads of federal agencies, including the Secretary of Homeland Security, Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Government of Puerto Rico on identifying increased support for energy generation on the island.

With growing demand for electric power across all regions and increasingly severe weather events, investments in grid efficiency, security, and resiliency are essential. We thank you for your leadership and respectfully request your continued support for these critical programs in the FY 2026 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



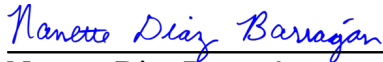
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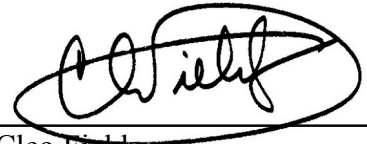
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



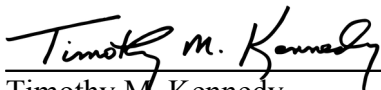
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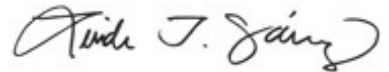
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