



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

KENNETH W. COOPER
International
Secretary-Treasurer

November 14, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Energy &
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy &
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

More than 450 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) are currently working in Puerto Rico to restore transmission lines, towers and distribution lines.

These skilled linesmen working for Whitefish Energy have accomplished a great deal in the past six weeks: crews have run 200 miles of new power lines and repaired dozens of transmission line towers in a very challenging environment. Much work remains, and we are steadfast in our commitment to bringing power back to 100 percent of Puerto Rico.

The logistical challenges in getting qualified workers and equipment to Puerto Rico following this catastrophic storm was like nothing our members have experienced. Whitefish Energy was able to overcome these challenges while taking on considerable financial risk in the process since their customer is a bankrupt utility.

IBEW has been impressed with the coordination and overall response of Whitefish CEO Andy Techmanski, who is an IBEW member. He has mobilized a team of skilled professionals from around the country, all of whom are working tirelessly around the clock to bring power back to Puerto Rico.

Getting power back to Puerto Rico is critically important and Whitefish Energy has played a big part in the work accomplished to-date on the island. I am proud of the work our members are doing on the ground in Puerto Rico, and proud of Whitefish Energy, a company delivering on the work they are tasked to complete.

Sincerely yours

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:lgd

Copy to All Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
All Members of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources