



THE OFFICE
of the
**PRESIDENT
ELECT**

January 2, 2009

The Honorable Luis G. Fortuño
Governor-elect
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Dear Governor-elect Fortuño:

I want to send my congratulations and best wishes to you on becoming Puerto Rico's ninth elected Governor. I also send my best to your wife, Lucé, and to your three children, who are justifiably proud of your election as Governor of Puerto Rico.

At this defining moment in our history, we are confronted with tremendous challenges in Puerto Rico and throughout the United States. I know that you understand the enormity of the tasks that lie ahead. While the road will be long, and our climb steep, I am as hopeful as ever that we will overcome whatever faces us and work together - in unity - to make a better tomorrow for our people.

Job Number One is to restore our economy. I have been working with our congressional leaders to forge a plan to reinvigorate our national economy. I will work with you, Resident Commissioner-elect Pedro Pierluisi and the other leaders of Puerto Rico to make sure that Puerto Rico is an integral part of our economic recovery plan. I understand the economic strains that have taken hold in Puerto Rico and will work with you to put Puerto Rico on the path to greater economic prosperity.

During my campaign, we pledged to seek equal coverage of Puerto Rico in federal health care assistance programs. We also pledged to seek the equitable treatment of Puerto Ricans in programs providing financial assistance to working families, and to develop measures to encourage job-creating investments in Puerto Rico. Although it may take some time to implement all of these proposals, Puerto Rico deserves no less.

We also pledged during my campaign to work with Congress and all groups in Puerto Rico to enable the question of Puerto Rico's status to be resolved during the next four years. I am fully aware of the difficulties that Puerto Rico has faced in the past when dealing with this issue, but self-determination is a basic right to be addressed no matter how difficult. Your right to self-determination is deepened even further by the brave service that Puerto Ricans have provided to the nation's armed forces, protecting all our people from foreign dangers throughout the past century. We will work to give a voice to the people of Puerto Rico to enable them to determine their political future.

We have set out an ambitious agenda for Puerto Rico over the next four years. It will not be easy to accomplish. But we cannot sit back and wait for someone else, at



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some other time, to do something about it. This time must be different. During this campaign, I had the opportunity to visit Puerto Rico, and I saw the real desire among the people to work together to bring about real, lasting improvement to Puerto Rico.

Congratulations once again on your historic victory. I look forward to working with you, Resident Commissioner-elect Pedro Pierluisi and other leaders to achieve these goals for Puerto Rico. So, let me say to you: “¡Que Viva Puerto Rico!” Thank you very much. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama