

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
4TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

2408 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8203

DISTRICT OFFICE

3240 WEST FULLERTON AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60647
(773) 342-0774

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
AND THE INTERNET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions and FBI Director Wray:

It has been more than a month since Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico. To this day, there are hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans with no electricity, no reliable access to safe drinking water or food, and who are living in remnants of their homes or have lost their homes altogether. The risk of disease in these conditions increases with each day that we don't evacuate people to safety. As the most powerful nation in the world, capable of invading far-away countries and swiftly building hospitals and infrastructure, our response to help our fellow 3.4 million Americans in Puerto Rico has been horribly inadequate and shameful.

To add insult to injury, we now have learned from press reports that Whitefish Energy, a company with just two employees on the day Maria hit, has been awarded a \$300 million contract with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) to fix and build large portions of the island's ravaged electrical infrastructure. Whitefish has questionable utilities experience, with no track record in this arena. The company is based in Whitefish, Montana, the hometown of Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, who knows fellow town resident and Whitefish's chief executive, Andy Techmanski. In addition, the private equity firm that finances Whitefish, HBC Investments, was founded by Joe Colonna, who serves as the General Partner of Whitefish. News reports compiled Federal Election Commission data showing that Mr. Colonna contributed \$20,000 to the Trump Victory PAC during the general election, thousands more to Trump's primary and general election campaign, and a total of \$30,700 to the Republican National Committee in 2016 alone.

The suspect nature of this multimillion dollar deal does not stop there. Whitefish was hired for the job without going through a bidding process and outside of the usual "mutual aid" arrangements that PREPA has with other far more experienced utilities which were offering to help Puerto Rico. Whitefish has no background with infrastructure rebuilding of this scale, unless you include a few contracts to build a few miles of infrastructure at a time.

And while Puerto Ricans are facing daily risks of disease, homelessness and death, apparently Whitefish's top priority is to energize local industrial facilities instead of people's homes.

This is an outrage. Clearly there are people with friends in high places with a plan to get rich off the misery of forgotten Puerto Ricans. I demand you use every resource at your disposal to investigate, prosecute and jail those who are illegally benefiting from this scheme.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis V. Gutierrez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress