



October 27, 2017

Dear Senators Barrasso, Johnson, and Murkowski and Representatives Rob Bishop, Gowdy, and Walden,

On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters working to hold power accountable, Common Cause writes today about our concerns with the Whitefish Energy contract. As chairs of committees with jurisdiction over the awarding of a contract to Whitefish Energy to restore electrical infrastructure in Puerto Rico, we ask you to immediately hold public hearings to examine why this two-person company, at the time Hurricane Maria struck, was chosen for this \$300 million project. We urge you to publicly demand answers so American taxpayers can get the transparency they deserve from their government.

Some of the critical questions that must be asked and answered include:

- What other companies, if any, were considered for this contract?
- Was this contract awarded using a proper bidding process?
- On page 5 of the contract, why was a provision “waiv[ing] any claim against Contractor related to delayed completion of the work” included?
- On page 27 of the contract, why was a provision preventing government entities from “hav[ing] the right to audit or review the cost and profit elements” included?

We appreciate those committees that have already demanded answers about this contract and encourage other committees with jurisdiction to take similar action. We urge you to hold public hearings to fully understand the details surrounding this contract because Puerto Ricans deserve a sense of normalcy to be restored as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

Cc: Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Tom Carper

Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator Claire McCaskill

Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Maria Cantwell

Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, Representative Raúl Grijalva

Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Representative Elijah Cummings

Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Representative Frank Pallone