



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 2011

For over a century, the people of Puerto Rico and the United States have woven a lasting political, economic, social, and cultural relationship. Today, this relationship is strengthened and renewed by the more than four million U.S. citizens who call Puerto Rico home and the nearly equal number of Puerto Ricans living on the mainland who travel back to Puerto Rico for business, vacation, or visits to see family and friends. We honor their contributions to the Nation and welcome their vigorous participation in helping to develop, shape, and implement the recommendations presented in this Report.

When I signed the Executive Order that renewed the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status, it was clear to me that Puerto Rico faces both great opportunities and considerable challenges in creating robust economic opportunity, in ensuring that its partnership with the Federal Government is fair and equitable, and in engaging a process that supports and respects Puerto Rico's self-determination. Today, I am pleased to receive the Task Force's Report and its recommendations because they provide an important road map to address the concerns and aspirations of the people of Puerto Rico.

I am encouraged that the Task Force took a serious look at a range of Puerto Rico's economic challenges and developed important recommendations for building competitive industries, investing in a modern renewable energy infrastructure, enhancing economic development, and improving the health and well-being of its citizens.

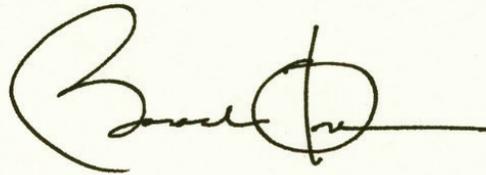
I am also pleased that the Puerto Rico Task Force has taken an honest look at key areas where the Federal Government's policies have been implemented inconsistently and recommends ways to bridge gaps in order to ensure a more effective partnership. And I remain committed to ensuring that all Federal programs treat the people they are intended to serve fairly.

Finally, at the heart of this Report and central to the lives of many Puerto Ricans, is the issue of the political status of Puerto Rico. I am firmly committed to the principle that the question of political status is a matter of self-determination for the people of Puerto Rico. I am pleased that the Task Force has outlined recommendations to enable the people of Puerto Rico to determine their political future. Both the President and Congress have roles to play to help Puerto Rico settle on its future status; I am committed to working with Congress to ensure that

a fair, clearly defined, and transparent process is available for the people of Puerto Rico to decide on their future for themselves.

I look forward to working with Congress, the people of Puerto Rico, their leaders, Task Force members, and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations outlined in this Report. The Task Force plans to take an active role in monitoring the work that Federal agencies are undertaking as a result of this process, and I look forward to celebrating the results of these important efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. ...", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".