March 21, 2020

The Honorable Wanda Vázquez-Garced
Governor of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza
San Juan, PR 00901

Dear Governor Vázquez-Garced:

I am pleased to know that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has granted your request for a disaster declaration in Puerto Rico in order to provide federal loans to small business owners that are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, I have been informed that the Puerto Rico Department of Treasury is requesting small business owners to provide a Tax Return with a wet signature from their office in order to complete the application for SBA’s Emergency Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). As you are aware, this additional requirement will create further delays for small businesses to access this critical federal assistance.

I respectfully ask that you take swift and prompt action to direct the Puerto Rico Department of Treasury to find an alternative solution to help business owners expedite their application process and provide them with vital economic support during this crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please let me know if my office may be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress