

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Politics and divisions could destroy the chances of forcing Washington to help resolve Puerto Rico's debt crisis.

Puerto Rico must have a common plan that has support across all of the parties, and most importantly, across the Island.

The Governor must find a way to work with the Resident Commissioner and the Resident Commissioner cannot view this crisis as a campaign tool for higher office.

Puerto Rico will only be helped by this Congress if and when there is a consistent and persistent call on Congress by Puerto Ricans to act. And Puerto Ricans need to specify what they expect Congress to do.

The Bankruptcy Bill is only part of it. If we still have the Jones Act and the same economy and economic prospects as we have now, we will not advance.

The people must tell Wall Street that Puerto Rico is not some store to be looted and that the Puerto Rican people will not sit and starve as Wall Street counts its profits.

If Wall Street is buying bonds at a discount, they should be paid at a discount.

But most importantly, we have to work together for the betterment of Puerto Rico. And we cannot let political divisions over statehood divide us.

I commit to putting aside my own passionate feelings about Puerto Rico's status and working with other Puerto Ricans in the Congress and other leaders in both Parties who will help us. But we must first come together, begin helping ourselves, and have a clear plan.

La política y las divisiones podrían destruir las posibilidades de obligar a Washington a ayudar a resolver la crisis de la deuda de Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico debe de tener un plan común que cuente con el apoyo de todos los partidos y sobre todo, a través de la Isla.

El Gobernador debe encontrar una manera de trabajar con el Comisionado Residente y el Comisionado Residente no puede ver esta crisis como una herramienta en sus campañas para un puesto más alto.

El Congreso sólo ayudará a Puerto Rico siempre y cuando haya un llamado constante y persistente de los puertorriqueños exigiendo que el Congreso cumpla. Y los puertorriqueños tienen que indicar lo que esperan de parte del Congreso.

La Legislación de Bancarrota es sólo una parte. Pero si todavía tenemos la Ley Jones y la misma economía y perspectivas económicas que tenemos ahora no avanzaremos.

El pueblo debe decirle a Wall Street que Puerto Rico no es una tienda para ser pirateada y que el pueblo de Puerto Rico no esperará a morir de hambre mientras Wall Street cuenta sus ganancias.

Si Wall Street está comprando bonos con descuentos, deben ser pagados con descuentos.

Pero sobre todo, tenemos que trabajar juntos por el bien de Puerto Rico. Y no podemos dejar que las divisiones políticas sobre la estadidad nos dividan.

Me comprometo como siempre lo he hecho a poner a un lado mis propios sentimientos sobre el estatus de Puerto Rico y a trabajar con otros puertorriqueños en el Congreso y otros líderes en los dos Partidos que estén dispuestos a ayudarnos. Pero primero tenemos que unirnos, empezar a ayudarnos a nosotros mismos, y tener un plan claro.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois will provide a translation for the RECORD.

□ 1015

#### SOUTHERN PIPING COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding family business in my home State of North Carolina.

When Southern Piping Company opened in 1965, it had two employees and a loan from the Small Business Administration. The two employees were Peggy Williford and her husband, Buren, who was one of the first licensed mechanical contractors in North Carolina—SPC, a classic family business, with all three of Peggy and Buren's sons—Chris, Mark, and Tim—continuing to lead the company.

Since 1965, the Willifords and the SPC family have weathered recessions and hard times, and over the years, through good old-fashioned hard work, they have grown.

Starting with one office in Wilson, SPC has expanded their plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning business to four offices statewide, and their SPC trucks are a familiar sight on the roads across North Carolina, but the biggest story is the family they have built through SPC, today providing jobs to 450 people.

When it came to building the company, Buren Williford always had a commonsense philosophy. He said: "Successful companies look for like-minded people to do business with."

Today, Southern Piping Company is adopting a new name—SPC Mechanical—to more accurately describe its growth and success. The Williford family still practices the old-fashioned principles of integrity, safety, and giving back to their community, for example, by offering young employees scholarships to attend nearby Barton College.

This year represents a landmark for the Williford family. They have now been in business for 50 years. It is my pleasure today to recognize the accomplishments of Peggy and Buren Williford.

#### RECOGNIZING CONNIE JEAN HUMPHREY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise to recognize my longtime chief of staff, Connie Jean Humphrey, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career on Capitol Hill.

It is an honor and a privilege to recognize Connie's many years of service and achievements. She has proven herself as a talented and dedicated public servant, who has made innumerable contributions in the service of my constituents residing in Texas' 15th Congressional District along the Rio Grande Valley.

Connie has compiled a long list of accomplishments throughout her career and as a senior member of my staff, and she has earned an impeccable reputation on Capitol Hill among her peers and my colleagues in the Texas congressional delegation with whom she has worked very closely in support of our mutual objectives for our great State of Texas.

Connie brought an array of talents and experience as my chief of staff. She has a thorough understanding of Federal policy, particularly in the areas of health care, education, transportation, the environment, and on women's issues.

She is fluent in many other policy areas important to my constituents in the valley, and she has been an invaluable source of guidance and counsel during my appointments on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, as well as on the Financial Services Committee.

Connie approaches her position as the leader of my office with the training and detail-oriented scrutiny of an attorney, who graduated from the University of Maryland, and with the policy expertise of a congressional aide who served in staff leadership positions for nearly three decades.

She was instrumental in helping me lead the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2010, which is aiding organizations like Workforce Solutions, based in McAllen, Texas, and is committed to the success of the employers and workforce of the Rio Grande Valley by matching them with skilled, productive employees and upgrading the skills of their current workforce.

Connie has been particularly effective in helping me address urgent needs in deep south Texas. Latino students aspiring to attain the dream of a college education are that much closer to realizing their hopes, thanks to Connie's involvement, resulting in passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act and the student loan and healthcare reconciliation bill of 2010, among the largest investments in higher education since the GI bill, particularly for Latino- and minority-serving higher education institutions in our country.