

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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October 23, 2009

The Honorable Luis G. Fortuño  
La Fortaleza  
Calle Recinto Oesta  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Dear Governor Fortuño:

I never hesitate to tell people they should visit Puerto Rico. The people, the scenery, the culture and the pride there make it a unique and extraordinary place. Puerto Rican Tronquistas are such an important part of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters that we sing your national anthem alongside that of Canada and the United States at our official functions. Our union's roots there are deep and strong, and the labor movement there is rich with talented men and women. That's why it was so shocking to hear the direction you have chosen to take when faced with an admittedly dire financial situation.

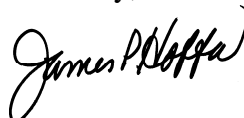
Your plan to lay off another 17,000 hardworking men and women seems shortsighted. You have chosen a solution that not only doesn't solve anything, but will make matters much worse.

The greed of millionaires and billionaires, coupled with thoughtless deregulation, is what thrust the world into this abominable situation. Getting out of it takes real guidance from elected leaders, not knee-jerk reactions like firing a significant portion of the population. Cities, states and nations worldwide are facing situations similar to yours, but there is a reason that no others are choosing to take such drastic measures.

You are faced with what seems like an easy choice: You can either lead or you can toss thousands of people into an abyss of poverty and unemployment that will be nearly impossible to dig out of.

I urge you to reconsider your shortsighted decision and instead find a solution that actually works for the people of Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,



James P. Hoffa  
General President

JPH/jfc