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Friend,

Today, we take a moment to commemorate a pivotal moment in Puerto Rico's history - El Grito de Lares. This historical event is intrinsically linked to our ongoing struggle for self-determination and serves as a poignant backdrop for our efforts to advocate for the betterment of Puerto Rico.

El Grito de Lares, which unfolded on this very day in 1868, represents the spirit of freedom, resilience, and unity that defines our beloved island. Informed by the visionary leaders Ramón Emeterio Betances and Segundo Ruiz Belvis, this cry for liberty was the first major revolt against Spanish colonial rule in Puerto Rico- calling for the immediate abolishing of slavery and the independence of Puerto Rico. It marked a turning point in our history and laid the foundation for the continued pursuit of justice and self-governance.

The significance of El Grito de Lares lies not only in the uprising itself but also in the lasting impact it had on Puerto Rico. While the revolt did not achieve its primary objective, it did compel the Spanish government to grant our island increased political autonomy in 1897 thorough the Charter of Autonomy. This recognition of our unique identity and our yearning for self-governance was a step in the right direction.

Now, as we commemorate the 155th anniversary of El Grito de Lares our mission is clear: to carry on the legacy of those who came before us by advocating for a brighter future for Puerto Rico. In the spirit of el Grito de Lares we are focusing our work on two critical issues facing Puerto Rico today. Our focus is on two critical issues - 1)ending the tax loophole for US tax evaders through Act 22 which is transforming our island into a haven for US tax evaders, at the same time, insuring the massive displacement of Puerto Ricans from the island;2) supporting Food Sovereignty for Puerto Rico to promote the self actualization of Puerto Rican agricultural producers to be included in the new 2023 farm bill insuring resources directly to the islands municipalities, the land grant university of Puerto Rico and locally based agricultural initiatives. Thus, providing the empowerment of Puerto Rico to cultivate their own sustenance and strengthen our and self-sufficiency.

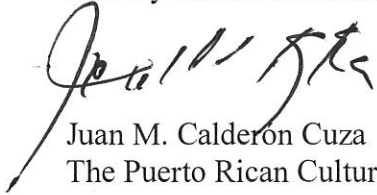
This past week Power4Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rican Agenda, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, among others mobilized representatives from 10 U.S. states and Puerto Rico to urge the Congress, to act on these issues during what we dubbed as Boricua Advocacy Week,

Today, we remember the courage, sacrifice, and determination of those who stood tall during El

Grito de Lares. Let us honor the legacy of Ramón Emeterio Betances, Segundo Ruiz Belvis, Mariana Bracetti, and countless others who shaped Puerto Rico's journey towards self-determination.

May this commemoration and our collective advocacy efforts serve as a beacon of hope, guiding us towards a future where Puerto Rico can fully exercise its right to self-governance, economic prosperity, and food sovereignty.

In unity and remembrance,



Juan M. Calderón Cuza
The Puerto Rican Cultural Center