



PRESS RELEASE  
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## **MENENDEZ'S HISTORIC EFFORTS WILL END CORPORATE PIRACY, SAYS NPRC**

### ***"Congress Must Protect US Taxpayers from Footing the Bill for one More Corporate Bailout"***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (April 15) – The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC), today praised New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez for introducing a bill to cap federal subsidies to corporations by 10 percent from the so-called “rum cover-over.” The bill, if passed by Congress, will protect US tax payers, and improve the economic, health, and civil rights of US citizens.

“This was a historic and daring move by Sen. Bob Menendez to save the economic stability of 3.9 million US citizens living in Puerto Rico,” noted NPRC Chairman Miguel Lausell. “We call on policy makers nationwide to follow Sen. Bob Menendez’s footsteps to set limits on how foreign-owned companies fill their pockets.”

British-owned liquor company, Diageo, PLC which distills Captain Morgan rum in Puerto Rico, is moving its operations without regards to the \$2.7 billion in revenues the Island will lose over the next 30 years. The federal funds, designated by Congress, are used for economic development, education, health services, and land conservation.

“Sen. Bob Menendez’s move will greatly impact the quality of life of all segments of the population, and in particularly the poor, sick, and aged,” said NPRC President Rafael Fantauzzi. “The time has come for the political mass to stand tall on the side of the critical mass,” asserted Fantauzzi.

NPRC has garnered support from national organizations to call upon consumers to stop consuming all Diageo’s brands including Johnny Walker, Bailey’s Irish Cream, Guinness, Don Julio, and Jose Cuervo among others.

The National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, which represents more than 300 Hispanic legislators, passed a resolution within the organization to protect the “rum cover-over.” Additionally, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, in New York City, canceled Diageo’s 30 year-old sponsorship in response to the company’s irresponsible corporate bailout.

“National and local Hispanic organizations, are catching on to Diageo’s deal that will only generate 40 low-paying jobs while the foreign-owned company squeezes billions from taxpayers, Congress must act now,” added Fantauzzi.

Additionally, NPRC is spearheading a nationwide grassroots coalition in Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, to educate voters to “Stop Diageo NOW.”

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The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC) is a non-profit non-partisan advocacy community organization with its mission is to systematically strengthen and enhance the social, political, and economic well-being of all Puerto Ricans throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico with a special focus on the most vulnerable