



The Senate

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500129
SAIPAN, MP 96950

January 05, 2009

The Honorable Judith Won Pat, Ed. D.
Speaker
I Mina' Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Territory of Guam
Guam

2009 JAN 23 PM 4:08

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith a certified copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 16-08, entitled, "A Senate Joint Resolution to express the gratitude of the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the recent statements of support of the Commonwealth's position concerning any designation of a marine monument in the waters adjacent to the Commonwealth made on behalf of the People of Guam by their elected representatives." S.J.R. No. 16-08 was adopted by the Senate on December 04, 2008 and by the House of Representatives on December 19, 2008, Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachment

30-09-0079
Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
Date 1/16/09
Time
Received by [Signature]



THE SENATE
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008

S.J.R. No. 16-08

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

To express the gratitude of the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the recent statements of support of the Commonwealth's position concerning any designation of a marine monument in the waters adjacent to the Commonwealth made on behalf of the People of Guam by their elected representatives.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Pete P. Reyes; Maria Frica T. Pangelinan; Luis P. Crisostimo; Paterno S. Hocog; Felix T. Mendiola; Paul A. Manglona; Jude U. Hofschneider; Joseph M. Mendiola; Henry H. San Nicolas

Date: December 04, 2008

Referred to: None

Standing Committee Report No.: None

Adopted: December 04, 2008

Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.

Date 12/04/08
Time 9:36
Received by [Signature]

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: None

Standing Committee Report No.: None

Adopted: December 19, 2008

Maria Frica T. Pangelinan
SENATOR MARIA FRICA T. PANGELINAN
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY



THE SENATE
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16-08

Introduced by: Senator Pete P. Reyes; Sen. Maria Frisca T. Pangelinan; Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo;
Sen. Paterno S. Hocog; Sen. Felix T. Mendiola; Sen. Paul A. Manglona; Sen. Jude U.
Hofschneider; Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola; Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

To express the gratitude of the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the recent statements of support of the Commonwealth's position concerning any designation of a marine monument in the waters adjacent to the Commonwealth made on behalf of the People of Guam by their elected representatives.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government persists in proposing that an area
2 encompassing 115,000 square miles of ocean surrounding the three northernmost islands of the
3 Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas be designated as the Marianas Trench Monument
4 without serious consideration of the will of the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern
5 Mariana Islands as expressed by their duly elected representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of the United States House
7 of Representatives for the Territory of Guam, recently supported the Commonwealth's position
8 concerning any impending designation of a marine monument with her statements in a letter to
9 the White House wherein she requested that the present efforts should proceed under the
10 National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which requires public input, rather than a unilateral
11 designation; and

12 WHEREAS, the Governor of Guam, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, in a letter dated
13 October 27, 2008 to White House Council on Environmental Quality Chairman James

1 Connaughton, stated his opposition to a “sudden declaration of a monument or conservation
2 status” in the Marianas and called for a review of the cultural and economic consequences of
3 the proposal before it moves forward; and

4 WHEREAS, the Guam Legislature recently adopted Resolution Number 196, entitled,
5 “Relative to supporting the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Carolinian
6 Affairs Advisory Committee Resolution No. 2008-001 in opposition to the proposal of the
7 United States Federal Government to recognize the Marianas Trench as a National Marine
8 Monument”; and

9 WHEREAS, Resolution Number 196 is a call for greater recognition of the rights of
10 the people who reside in any of the Mariana Islands, regardless of political designation, for the
11 will of the people historically has been and sadly continues to be neglected; and

12 WHEREAS, the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands join
13 the People of Guam in asserting that the will of the people of all of the Mariana Islands should
14 be respected; and

15 WHEREAS, the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are
16 grateful to the people of Guam for their continued support of our right to self- determination
17 and local self-government; now, therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Sixteenth Northern Marianas
19 Commonwealth Legislature, the House of Representatives concurring, that the People of the
20 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands do hereby express their gratitude for the
21 recent statements of support of the Commonwealth’s position concerning any designation of a
22 marine monument in the waters adjacent to the Commonwealth made on behalf of the People
23 of Guam by their elected representatives; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature joins the Guam Legislature in
25 asserting that the people of the Marianas and Micronesia have been fishing our waters for
26 millennia and are exceptional stewards of our culture and resources; and


27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern
28 Mariana Islands reassert their position that a comprehensive dialogue with all stakeholders
29 prior to the formal proposal or designation of any national marine monument or sanctuary,

1 however styled, must take place to ensure that the decisions of officials thousands of miles
2 away does not adversely impact local residents' exercise of traditional practices or control
3 over land and water rightly theirs; and


4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
5 House of Representatives shall certify and the Senate Legislative Secretary and the House
6 Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this joint resolution and, thereafter, the Senate Clerk shall
7 transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Gregorio Sablan, Member-Elect of the United
8 States House of Representatives for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; to
9 the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of the United States House of Representatives
10 for the Territory of Guam; to the Honorable James L. Connaughton, Chairman of Council of
11 Environmental Quality; to the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor, Commonwealth of the
12 Northern Mariana Islands, to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor, Territory of Guam;
13 and to The Honorable Judith Won Pat, Ed. D., Speaker, I Mina' Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan
14 Guåhan.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE ON DECEMBER 04, 2008
AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON DECEMBER 19, 2008.

CERTIFIED BY:

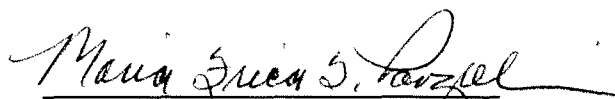


PETE P. REYES
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

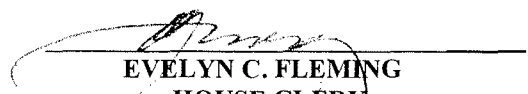


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ATTESTED BY:



MARIA FRISCA T. PANGELINAN
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY



EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK