RE: C.R. NO. 17-165/R&D

SUBJECT: STEVE Y. GEORGE NOMINATION TO NORMA BOARD OF

DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 03, 2012

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir Speaker, Seventeenth Congress Federated States of Micronesia Fifth Regular Session, 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred C.R. NO. 17-165, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. STEVE Y. GEORGE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER REPRESENTING THE STATE OF KOSRAE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NORMA).",

begs leave to report as follows:

Congressional Resolution No. 17-165 was transmitted to Congress on August 20, 2012 through Presidential Communication No. 17-283. The said resolution is a confirmation resolution for Mr. Steve Y. George to serve on the Board of Directors of the NORMA, as a member representing the State of Kosrae.

On October 1, 2012, your Committee on Resources and Development conducted a hearing on the nomination. The nominee was present and was given an opportunity to comment on his nomination.

The nominee explained to the Committee that he appreciated the fact that the President has confidence in him and had nominated him to the Board. He also thanked the Governor of Kosrae State

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for submitting his name to the President to be considered as a nominee from the State of Kosrae to serve on the Board.

Your Committee asked the nominee how he was notified to serve on the Board of Directors of NORMA. The response was that he was consulted by both the President and the Governor of the State of Kosrae. Again, your Committee inquired with the nominee whether his position as an Assistant Attorney General of the FSM Department of Justice will be a plus to him given his legal background or whether he foresees an apparent conflict of interest to serve on the Board given his present duties and responsibilities as an Assistant Attorney General for the FSM Department of Justice, which is the office that usually gives legal advises to NORMA.

The nominee informed your Committee that in the event a conflict of interest arises, his representation will be of a member of the Board of Directors of NORMA and not as an Assistant Attorney General. He further indicated that his current duties and responsibilities include reviewing the Authority's contracts, Memorandum of Understanding and fishing agreements. His current line of work appears to cause a conflict of interest, but for him, he will try not to compromise the position of the Department with NORMA.

The current chairman of the Board contributed to the discussion of the nomination, which he informed your Committee that Mr. George's nomination will be a plus to the Board given his legal background. For instance, being there at a time if a legal issue arises, the nominee can give legal advise to the Board right there when needed.

Your Committee was informed that the member on the Board of Directors of NORMA representing the State of Kosrae no longer sits on the Board since early last year. Your Committee learned that there was a transmittal letter from the Governor of the State of Kosrae regarding Mr. Steve Y. George nomination.

The nominee indicated that this will be his first time to serve as a member of Board at the National level and is very interested to serve on the Board, if confirm by Congress.

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Your Committee, therefore, offers the following amendments to the resolution as follows:

- 1. Page 1, line 7, delete "appoints", and insert "nominates" in lieu thereof.
- 2. Page 1, line 12, delete "an", an insert "a" in lieu thereof.
- 3. Page 1, line 13, delete "appointee", and insert "nominee" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-165, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 17-165, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger S. Mori
Roger S. Mori, chairman

Yosiwo P. George, vice chairman

/s/ Peter M. Christian
Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon Bonsiano F. Nethon, member /s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member