

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-142

RE: C.R. NO. 15-135/R&D

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF MR. ROMEO OSIENA AS THE MEMBER ON THE NATIONAL OCEANIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FROM CHUUK.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Regular Session, 2008

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred C.R. No. 15-135, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. ROMEO OSIENA TO BE A MEMBER ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NORMA).",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

The nomination of Mr. Romeo Osiena was transmitted to Congress on May 19, 2008 by way of Presidential Communication No. 15-192. Presidential Communication 15-192 urges Congress to favorably consider this nomination.

Biographical information concerning Mr. Osiena's qualifications was provided to this Committee on September 20, 2008. The resume outlines Mr. Osiena's qualifications.

A public hearing was initially set for September 16, 2008, but was cancelled because the nominee did not show up. Representatives from NORMA informed your Committee that travel arrangements could not be done to bring the nominee in time. Your Committee expressed its disappointment of NORMA's failure and expressed in clear terms to its representatives that such failure would adversely affect the work of Congress during this regular session, and particularly disrupted your Committee's plan of work. Your Committee then cancelled the hearing and instructed NORMA that if it is serious in having Congress consider the nomination, every effort should be made to ensure the presence of the nominee.

On September 19, 2008, your Committee was advised that the nominee would be available in the afternoon of that day and the next day. A public hearing was then set for and held on September 20, 2008. The nominee and NORMA Deputy Director Eugene Pangelinan were present.

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The written information provided to your Committee subsequent to Presidential Communication 15-192 and testimonies of the nominee at the hearing revealed that Mr. Osiena earned an associate of arts degree in general education from Lassen College, Susanville, California, in 1978 and a bachelor of science degree in the field of general science from the Eastern Oregon College, La Grande, Oregon, in 1986.

In addition, Mr. Osiena attended several fisheries trainings, including a 6 months training in Nelson, New Zealand, in fishing methods and tuna migration patterns, a 6 months OFCF training in Tokyo in 1990, a training in Coastal Resources Management in Tokyo in 2000, a training in the Barbados Plan of Action on Climate Change in New Dehli, India, in 2001, a scientific training on Propagation of Marine Animals (Mollusks) in South Korea, in 2002, and a QUEST training in Quantitative Underwater Ecological Survey, conducted by the University of Hawaii, Hilo, in Pohnpei State, in 2003.

Mr. Osiena has been working in the Chuuk State Department of Marine Resources since 1990, first as the Chief of the Division of Operation and Technical Support (1990-1992); then Chief of the Division of Conservation and Management (1992-1993); Chief of the Division of Research and Development (1993-1995); Department Deputy Director (1995-1996); Acting Department Director (1996; and currently Department Director (1996 to present).

According to the Deputy Executive Director of NORMA, Mr. Osiena's background with the Chuuk State Government and his education and experience in various aspects of fisheries enforcement and conservation will enable the nominee to perform the responsibilities of NORMA membership well. He said that he had worked with the nominee on various fisheries issues and expressed his belief that the nominee can make a positive contribution to the work of the Authority. He therefore expressed his support for the nominee. In response to questions raised by members of your Committee, he said that until replaced by a new member who has been appointed and qualified, the incumbent whose re-nomination was rejected by Congress continues to sit on the Board. He, therefore, urged Congress' expedited action on this nomination.

Asked whether he was interested to serve on the Board, the nominee answered he was very interested.

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Your Committee agrees that Mr. Osiena's educational and working experiences together with his interest in conservation and environmental issues and enthusiasm to serve on the Board should make him an asset to the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority.

That said, your Committee also considered whether the nomination complied with the law 24 FSMC 301 requires that all nominations for membership on NORMA Board of Directors receive the advice and consent of Congress. One member from each State must be appointed by the President "in consultation with the Governor." The proposed Resolution provided by the President recites that Mr. Osiena was nominated as the Chuuk representative to NORMA Board of Directors, but it failed to state that his nomination was made "in consultation with the Governor" of Chuuk State. However, in Presidential Communication No. 15-192, the President did mention that Governor Simina recommended the nominee, and the nominee himself testified, at the hearing, that he was recommended by Governor Simina.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-135 and recommends its adoption.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dion G. Neth
Dion G. Neth, chairman

/s/ Tesime Kofot
Tesime Kofot, vice chairman

Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, member

/s/ Joe N. Suka
Joe N. Suka, member

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

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, member