

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-30

RE: C.R. NO. 15-18/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW
YATILMAN TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF
THE FSM (EEM)

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2007

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development ("R&D"), to which was referred C.R. No. 15-18, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW
YATILMAN TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERATED
STATES OF MICRONESIA."

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Andrew Yatilman has been nominated by the President for the position of Director of the newly created Office of Environment and Emergency Management of the Federated States of Micronesia. Title 2, section 207(1) of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia sets out that this nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress.

Mr. Yatilman is originally from the State of Yap where he received his primary education and began his secondary education. He transferred to Xavier High School in Chuuk where he graduated in 1980. Mr. Yatilman began his post secondary education at the Mangilao College of Business and Public Administration of the University of Guam in 1980 and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration in 1986. In 1990 and 1991 he attended postgraduate studies at the Manoa School of Public Health of the University of Hawaii receiving a certificate in International Public Health Policy & Planning.

Mr. Yatilman has broad work experience beginning with part time work as a peer counselor at the University of Guam while attending undergraduate school there. During that same time he also worked as a part time assistant researcher with the Micronesian Area Research Center of the University. After completing his college degree in 1986 he took employment as Assistant Principal, Counselor and Teacher at

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Xavier High School in Chuuk. In 1988 he became the health planner/statistics coordinator for the Yap State Department of Health Services and later became the Assistant Director of that Department where he continued to serve from 1991 to 1999.

In 1999 Mr. Yatilman was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Yap. His responsibilities in that role included chairing the Executive Budget Review Committee and also the Public Sector Reform Program for the State of Yap.

After leaving his elected position in 2003 Mr. Yatilman became the General Manager of the Yap Visitors Bureau where he served until March 2005 when he was appointed to his current position as Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure. As the head of the FSM Department of TC&I, Mr. Yatilman was responsible for the general supervision of the operations of the Department and also advised the President on policy issues relating to marine transportation, civil aviation, telecommunication and infrastructure development in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Committee specifically notes the vast contribution Mr. Yatilman has made to his community, state and nation in the form of his service on numerous Boards and Commissions between 1986 and the present time. Included in this impressive list is his membership on the Chuuk State Department of Education Scholarship Board, service as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Yap State Public Service Corporation, member of the Board of Directors of the FSM Visitors Board, member Board of Directors YNN Networker (Private Newspaper), member Board of Directors of NORMA from 2000 to 2004, member and current Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Satawal Island Trust for Environmental Protection and Community Development, member, former Chairman and Vice Chairman and current Secretary/Treasurer Board of Regents COM Land Grant Program and member and current Chairman of the Micronesian Shipping Commission (Created by treaty among FSM, Palau and Marshall Islands).

PUBLIC HEARING

Your committee held a public hearing on the nomination on the morning of Friday, September 14, 2007. The hearing was conducted in two

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sessions, the first being with staff members and employees of the FSM who have worked with and for the nominee and the second being with the nominee, himself. Present were Chairman Dion G. Neth, committee members Setiro Paul, Peter Sitan, Joe N. Suka, Joseph J. Urusemal and Palinoa K. Welly. Also in attendance were Senators Dohsis Halbert, Moses Nelson and Fredrico O. Primo. Various current and past employees of the Department of TC&I formerly headed by the nominee as well as employees of the Department of Resources and Development attended as well as Chief of Staff Sabino Asor representing the Office of the President.

Employees with the Department of TC&I voiced mixed emotions in recommending the nominee to this new post. They were very sorry to be losing him as the leader of their own Department but knew he was highly qualified to assume the job as Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management. They described him as "extremely capable", "easy to work with", and as "an inspiration" to fellow employees.

When called to the hearing room, nominee Yatilman affirmed that he has accepted the nomination. He spoke to the very different challenges he would face if confirmed as Director from those he experienced when appointed as Secretary of the Department of TC&I. He stated there is a learning curve in any new job that requires a certain amount of time before one becomes completely comfortable. In response to questions from Committee members he maintained he did not consider the new position to be any less important or less of a challenge than the job he leaves.

In response to questions nominee Yatilman confirmed his experience in environment and emergency matters while serving in various capacities in his home state of Yap. He pointed to his membership on an environmental stewardship council created by the Traditional Leaders of Yap as one area of his involvement with environmental matters. In the field of emergency response he was able to point to his period of service as Lieutenant Governor of Yap and his involvement with typhoon disaster relief and assessment.

When questioned about the role of the new Office in environmental health and specifically its role in improving the environment in the

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states by removal of trash and abandoned vehicles, Mr. Yatilman confirmed that much of the initial responsibility for those matters was with state government but that he has considered the important role of the new Office in coordinating such activities as the removal and transporting of abandoned vehicles from the various states. The "Micronesian Challenge" was cited as one example of national participation in conservation and environmental preservation.

Mr. Yatilman stated that one of his priorities would be working with State offices in obtaining FEMA funding and implementing and following through on FEMA projects. Another will be establishing a current disaster and emergency response plan for the nation. He stated one of the initial responsibilities of the new Director would be to define the role of that Office and the national government in relation to disaster response and the work with State offices to insure that plans are in place.

Several of the Committee members and Senators attending expressed their view that their support for the President's reorganization plan was based upon their expectation that the resulting organization will be more efficient. They observed, for example, that environmental offices have existed in several of the departments of the national government sometimes causing confusion for State offices seeking to coordinate with the national government. They affirmed their expectation that environmental and emergency services of the national government will be consolidated and centralized with the advent of the new Office of Environment and Emergency Management.

Mr. Yatilman said if confirmed, he would do his best to organize this new Office into an efficient and effective voice for environmental and emergency issue within the national government. In his concluding remarks he recalled the period of adjustment he went through when he first came to the national government two years ago and made the transition from his years of service with the Yap State government. He expressed his enthusiasm for taking on a new challenge and learning his new responsibilities as rapidly as he can.

CONCLUSION

Your committee is satisfied with the qualifications and dedication of

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the nominee and particularly acknowledges his past service to his state and national governments as well as to so many nongovernmental organizations. Those experiences have provided Mr. Yatilman with solid knowledge and experience that well prepare him to take on the responsibilities of this newly created Office of Environment and Emergency Management.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-1 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Setiro Paul
Setiro Paul, vice chairman

Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, member

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

Joseph J. Urusemal, member

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