

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-31

RE: C.R. NO. 15-19/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ROGER MORI  
TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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. 15-19, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ROGER S.  
MORI TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF  
MICRONESIA."

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Roger S. Mori has been nominated by the President for the position of Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development 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. Mori is originally from the State of Chuuk where he received his primary education and grades 9-11 of his secondary education. He completed his secondary education in Eugene, Oregon before entering the University of Oregon in 1972. In 1978 Mr. Mori was awarded his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oregon in Curriculum and Instruction at the Elementary Level - Social Science. He later continued his post secondary educational development through several short-term training programs. In 1981 he attended a U.N. FAO/University of the Pacific training course on agricultural project analysis for the Pacific in Fiji and in 1984 the U.S. Congress OTIA seminar on economic development in Guam. In 1985 he attended the U.N. ESCAP seminar in public administration, planning and management in Chuuk State and in 1986 he attended a HUD/U.S. Department of Commerce sponsored economic development seminar in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mr. Mori has extensive governmental work experience at both the state and national levels beginning with part time employment as a planning

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technician with the Chuuk State Office of Planning and Statistics in 1978. He then became the Executive Director of the Truk Environmental Agency from 1979 to 1981, a project analyst with the Chuuk State Department of Resources and Development from 1981-1983, an Economic Development Program Analyst with that same Chuuk State Department from 1983-1984 and Deputy Director of the Department from 1984 to 1986. Between 1986 and 1990 Mr. Mori was employed as State Planner, Office of Planning and Statistics of the Chuuk State government before taking elective office as a Chuuk State Senator in the first Chuuk State Legislature in 1990.

During his first term as a state senator Mr. Mori was both a member of the Senate Committee on Resources and Development and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance. During his second and third terms with the Chuuk State Senate he was elected by his fellow senators as President of the Chuuk State Senate and also served on Senate Committees on Finance and Governmental Relations.

In 1999 Roger Mori began employment with the FSM National Government as Marketing Advisor with the Department of Economic Affairs. In 2003 he became Assistant Secretary, Division of Sectoral Development of the Department and he has served in his current capacity as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs from 2005 until the present.

#### 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 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 and officials of the former Department of Economic Affairs appeared, as did Chief of Staff Sabino Asor representing the President's Office.

Many of the employees of the national government who have worked with

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or for the nominee in his role as Assistant Secretary for the Economic Planning and Statistics Division of the old Department of Economic Affairs were in attendance at the hearing to show their support. Several spoke in support of his nomination or responded to direct questions from Committee members. They were uniform in their belief Mr. Mori is competent and capable of leading the Department. He was described as having a "charming personality", "confidence" and being a "team player." It was noted that in the area of "trade", no one person is capable of being knowledgeable of every activity, negotiation or relationship and that it is necessary for any Secretary to be surrounded by qualified staff making the latter quality important in a Secretary.

The foreign trade consultant under contract with the FSM gave his perspective from working closely with Mr. Mori in the past in the development of trade policy. He stated the nominee was a valuable contributor in his work on a comprehensive trade policy for the nation. He stated Mr. Mori is a very capable leader with innovative ideas in trade matters. Chief of Staff Asor related the President's belief that this nominee would be instrumental in helping to implement the ambitious economic development programs and policies of his administration.

The former Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs and immediate supervisor of the nominee during his service as an Assistant Secretary, Akillino H. Susaia, lent his strong voice of support in the form of a letter submitted during the hearing. He concludes his letter with the statement:

"As a citizen and a former cabinet member of the FSM National Government, I believe very strongly that the President made the perfect choice when he nominated Roger to be the new Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development. The country, and most specifically the employees of the department, will benefit greatly from Roger's leadership qualities and management skills.  
\* \* \* I am very confident that Roger will become a great Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development."

When called to the hearing room, Nominee Mori affirmed that he has accepted the nomination. He candidly acknowledged that he is not a

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person with formal education in the field of economic development but a person with knowledge born of experience. He cited his experience at both the state and national and in both the executive and legislative branches of government as qualifications for the challenge of the position.

Mr. Mori consistently demonstrated the importance he places on the FSM Strategic Development Plan. He considered one of his most important contributions from his years of public service to have been his work in promoting and moving the Plan forward in both his own state and at the national level. He considers that many of the policies of the Department are set by that Plan, legislation passed by Congress and other policy directives. He views the role of the Secretary to implement those policies rather than set them.

During his comments and answers to questions Mr. Mori emphasized his belief that a big part of the role of the Department and of the Secretary is the coordination of and assistance to State projects and initiatives. He spoke to the importance of that role in maximizing the benefit from foreign donor countries through better procedures in identifying and implementing local projects qualifying for program funds. He recognized past deficiencies in communication, and coordination between departments and pledged to improve the Department's performance if confirmed as its Secretary.

The nominee was questioned about any potential conflict that might arise from his relationship with the President and how it might affect his performance as a part of the President's administration. He stated that he considered that very question when first offered the nomination and that he ultimately concluded that relationship could be a positive in the performance of his duties. He stated his belief he would be a strong voice with the President on Department issues.

#### CONCLUSION

Your committee is satisfied with the qualifications and dedication of the nominee. It particularly acknowledges his many years of public service at both State and National levels and with both executive and legislative branches of government. Those experiences have provided him with solid knowledge and experience of that office's needs.

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Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-19 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

Peter Sitan, member

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

Joseph J. Urusemal, member

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