

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-116

RE: C.R. NO. 16-144/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF STEVEN
LINUS GEORGE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
KOSRAE STATE ON THE NORMA BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

NOVEMBER 19, 2010

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Sixteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Special Session, 2010

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred
C.R. No. 16-144, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. STEVEN
LINUS GEORGE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY (NORMA).",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

In Presidential Communication No. 16-318, Mr. Steven L. George has
been nominated by the President to serve as a member of the Board of
Directors of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
(NORMA), representing the State of Kosrae. Title 24, section 201 of
the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia sets out that this
nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress.

Submitted with P.C. No. 16-318 is the nominee's Curriculum Vitae. Mr.
George is from the State of Kosrae. His post secondary education
includes a B.A. in Economics from the University of Hawaii in 1995, a
post graduate certificate in economics from the Economics Institute at
the University of Colorado in 2000, and an M.A., Development Economics
from the Center for Development Economics, Williams College,
Massachusetts in 2001. He did a two month internship with the Kosrae
Island Resource Management Program during the summer of 1994,

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completed a five week course on Project Design, Monitoring and Evaluation sponsored by ANUTECK, Australia National University in May 1996, and also a two week course on External Sector Policies sponsored by the IMF and Bank of Thailand in April, 1997. In 2001 he completed a three week course on Macroeconomic Impact on Budget sponsored by IMF and Singapore Training Institute.

Mr. George has more than ten years of governmental work experience at both the state and national levels. He began as a project analyst with the Kosrae State Government Division of Planning from 1995 to 1999. Between 1999 and 2002 he served as a staff economist with the FSM Department of Economic Affairs in Palikir, Pohnpei. He then became the Branch Manager of the FSM Development Bank office in his home state of Kosrae, where he continued until becoming the Kosrae State Government Economist in 2004. For several months in 2007 Mr. George was the General Manager of the Micronesia Petroleum Corporation of Kosrae until accepting his present position of Director of the Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs in June, 2007.

PUBLIC HEARING

Your Committee held a public hearing on C. R. No. 16-144 on November 17, 2010. In attendance at the hearing were Chairman Roger S. Mori, Vice Chairman Tony Otto and Committee member Peter Sitan. Also in attendance were Senator Claude H. Phillip and Floor Leader Joe N. Suka. Other witnesses were Chairman of the Board of Directors of NORMA, Kandhi Elieisar, member Ricky Carl, Acting Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan, and the President's emissary, Mr. Marcellus Akapito. The nominee was also at the hearing.

Chairman Mori welcomed those in attendance at the hearing and invited the witnesses to make general statements. Mr. Elieisar expressed his full support on the nomination, and has no doubt that Mr. George is well qualified, given his past working experience. Mr. Pangelinan also fully supports the nominee, and urged that the Committee confirm him so that the Board can organize and become fully functional. Mr. Carl echoed the same sentiments expressed by his Chairman and the Acting Executive Director of NORMA.

Chairman Mori also invited the nominee to make a statement. The

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nominee briefly explained that he is currently the Director of the Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs (DREA), a position he has held since 2007. Mr. George's initial comments concerned a unit in DREA which deals with fisheries, and he believes that it has a function, that has relevancy to the important role that NORMA plays.

Floor Leader Suka indicated that Congress did not confirm Mr. Taulung, and asked whether the submittal of the nominee directly to Vice President Alik L. Alik is a strategy. In response to the Floor Leader's inquiry, he was comforted to learn that the communication to Vice President Alik came at a time when President Mori was off island. Senator Sitan expressed his full support based on the fact that the nominee is not a politician. Chairman Mori asked whether the nominee sits on any boards. The nominee responded positively to the question. He is a member of a board that exists at the state level and not at the National level. Mr. Pangelinan commented that his understanding of title 24 is that if the nominee has any interest in fisheries ventures, he might have a conflict of interest. However, the law requires him to declare any such interest.

The Floor Leader also commented that in the past, the State governments have a thought of receiving equal shares of fees from fishing licenses, and what is the nominee's view on the issue. Mr. George indicated that the subject matter is an outstanding issue. He went on to elaborate on his view that the National Government plays a major role in the success of the States. He believes that the progress of this Nation is through effective assistance and coordination.

The members of the Resources and Development Department were given the opportunity for final comments and repeated their support for the President's nominee.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee is satisfied with the qualifications of the nominee and particularly acknowledges his educational and academic background.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 16-144 and recommends its adoption.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, vice chairman

Peter M. Christian, member

Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, member

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

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