STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-17

RE: C.R. NO. 21-46/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FSM AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE MUTUAL WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Twenty First Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2019

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 21-46 entitled:


begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee understands the need for increased cooperation and relations with other nations, and in particular the Russian Federation. It would be beneficial to ease the restrictions on short term travel to the Russian Federation so our citizens can travel for short term training, tourism, medical tourism, conference and diplomatic travel. Short term visa waiver would increase the tourism from Russia, and it is hoped, increase travel to explore business investment opportunities in the Federated States of Micronesia.
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For several years, the National Government negotiated with the Russian Federation, and reached an agreement to grant visa-free privileges for the citizens of the other nation up to 30 days. This Agreement was signed on September 21, 2017, by the parties in New York. This Agreement and the proposed resolution were transmitted by the President this September 2019 regular session of Congress for action.

Your Committee has been briefed on several occasions on the progress of this Agreement. It believes that there have been unintended delays in the transmission of this Agreement and resolution to the Congress, and that action should be taken on this issue as soon as possible.

Your Committee also defers to the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs as to the decision to enter into the visa-free Agreement with the Russian Federation. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the resolution ratifying this Agreement should be adopted, and so recommends the same.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 21-46, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.
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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  /s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman  Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member  Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Emond B. Moses  /s/ Dion G. Neth
Emond B. Moses, member  Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Robson U. Rolomow
Robson U. Romolow, member