

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-08

RE: C.R. NO. 23-30/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. RICKY F.
CANTERO TO SERVE AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

JULY 17, 2023

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Third Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2023

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R.
No. 23-30 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. RICKY
F. CANTERO TO SERVE AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee stresses our Nation's need for strong leadership
at the Department of Foreign Affairs. It is important to provide
full support for our Nation's overseas diplomatic missions and
to assist in the formulation of foreign policy with efficiency,
integrity and the highest levels of expertise.

The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs often
stands in as the representative of the Department. This
position has an extraordinarily important role in the high-level

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international policy discussions. Therefore, an extended period of service for someone who is long serving is very beneficial to our Nation. Continuing service for an individual that has already forged strong relationships within the Department and with his international counterparts, and has an in-depth knowledge of the relevant policy issues, would be in the best interests of our Nation.

The nominee has served successfully in multiple capacities in our Department of Foreign Affairs. He is well known for his diplomatic skill. The nominee served with distinction as the Deputy Secretary, and has been re-nominated for this position in the above captioned resolution. It is in the best interests of our Nation that the nominee be allowed to continue using his extensive knowledge of administration and foreign policy.

Your Committee reviewed the qualifications of this nominee at the time of his initial confirmation. The Committee has not received any subsequent communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee. During the Committee's recent FY24 budget hearing it had a chance to speak with the leadership at the Department of Foreign Affairs. The nominee's performance throughout his long foreign service career was considered outstanding. Further, your Committee defers to the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs as to the decision to nominate the individual to this post. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. Ricky F. Cantero be confirmed as the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 23-30, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Palinkoa K. Welly
Palinkoa K. Welly, chairman

Tiwiter Aritios, member

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

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

/s/ Peter M. Christian
Peter M. Christian, member

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

/s/ Quincy Lawrence
Quincy Lawrence, member