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A RESOLUTION

Requesting the Governor and the director of the Truk State Department of Public Affairs to give equal opportunity to citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia to air their comments on issues of vital public interest.

1 WHEREAS, section 1 of article IV of the Constitution of the
2 Federated States of Micronesia provides for the freedom of speech; and

3 WHEREAS, under the freedom of speech clause, the people of Truk
4 State have a constitutional right to form and hold opinions and to
5 receive opinions expressed by others, by any means of communication; and

6 WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the Congress that
7 in Truk State occasions have occurred when speeches relating to issues
8 of vital public interest have been unreasonably withheld from being
9 aired on broadcasting station WSZC in spite of the station manager's
10 certification that they were acceptable for broadcasting; and

11 WHEREAS, such form of prior restraint is the most suspect punish-
12 ment in a free society; ideas do not even get to the marketplace to
13 compete for recognition and acceptance; and such censorship runs counter
14 to the freedom of speech and of the press; now, therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Third Congress of the Federated States of
16 Micronesia, Second Regular Session, 1983, that the Governor and the
17 director of the Truk State Department of Public Affairs are hereby
18 respectfully requested to give equal opportunity to citizens of the
19 Federated States of Micronesia to air their comments on issues of vital
20 public interest on broadcasting station WSZC; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution
22 be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Truk and the director
23 of the Truk State Department of Public Affairs.

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25 Date: 10/26/83

Introduced by: Kalisto Refalopei

[Handwritten signatures and notes at the bottom of the page, including names like Kalisto Refalopei and others.]