

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-11

RE: C.R. NO. 15-16

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF FINLEY S. PERMAN

JULY 13, 2007

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2007

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways and Means ("W&M"), to which was referred C.R. No. 15-16, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF FINLEY S. PERMAN TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The reputation of the nominee preceded him with your committee. As Director of Treasury for Pohnpei State, the nominee earned praises nationwide for the first clean audit of Pohnpei State's finances. During the nominee's tenure, for the first time Pohnpei State earned an unqualified audit opinion. The committee notes that achievement and hopes that the nominee can duplicate that result for the national government

The committee considers it a plus to have a former State financial official run the national Department of Finance because if confirmed, Mr. Perman would bring a unique State perspective to a department that the States tend to regard with apprehension or even animosity.

A public hearing was held on the nomination on Wednesday July 11, 2007. At the hearing the nominee testified that even though his leaving Pohnpei would represent a loss for that State, he is receiving the full support of the Governor of Pohnpei for what is perceived to be a great honor and opportunity.

That endorsement reinforced the committees's belief that the nominee would be able to work effectively with the States. To questions such as whether releases of drawdown to the states can be expedited, the nominee stated that he would carefully review the operations of the Department of Finance in order to streamline procedures and reduce bottlenecks - as he had done with Pohnpei State.

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The nominee acknowledged the need for good staff. Asked whether he would be willing to discipline staff he stated that to him the important issue was performance. He had dealt satisfactorily with issues of performance at Pohnpei State and had now built a good team there. He intends to do the same at the national government.

The nominee also promised to look into the funding of field offices.

Staff from the Department of Finance were at the hearing, and were in full support of the nominee.

Your committee likes the nominee's youth, energy, and determination. The committee also appreciates the nominee's financial background - staying with his experience at the Public Auditor's Office -- and his stellar track record at Pohnpei State.

Your committee commends the President for a good choice for the nation's Chief Financial Officer, and recommends Mr. Perman's confirmation as Secretary of Finance and Administration.

Your Committee on Ways and Means is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-16 and recommends its adoption.

