

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-177

RE: C.R. NO. 15-171/J&GO

SUBJECT: NOMINATION TO US-FSM JEMCO

FEBRUARY 03, 2009

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Sixth Regular Session, 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operation ("J&GO"), to which was referred C.R. No. 15-171 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF LORIN ROBERT TO THE US-FSM COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION JOINT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JEMCO).",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your committee is not unfamiliar with the nominee. Currently, Mr. Robert is the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and has served as Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs under two previous administrations – Presidents Falcam and Urusemal. Nothing since these previous confirmations has occurred to change this committee's trust in Mr. Robert as a Foreign Affairs official.

Mr. Robert has risen through the ranks in the Department and has served with distinction in posts both at the main office and overseas, notably as Deputy Chief of Mission in the Important mission in Tokyo. His career spans the entire history of the Department of Foreign Affairs (formerly External Affairs). Throughout it all, Mr. Robert has accumulated a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and technical knowledge of diplomacy.

The academic credentials of the nominee are also first class. Your Committee notes that the nominee attended the School of International Service of the American University in Washington DC, and also Oxford University in England.

Your Committee is also satisfied that at this crucial time in our history, with its many foreign affairs challenges, the President has chosen to nominate a professional diplomat to be a member of the US-FSM Compact of Free Association Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO). Your Committee is satisfied that if confirmed the nominee

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would have the internal support needed to further the foreign policy interests of the nation.

On January 9, 2009, Congressional Act No. 15-68 was overridden, a proposed bill to accommodate the advice and consent of members to the JEMCO, and based on this override, Congress decided to act on the resolution. In addition, if there is no action of Congress during this session, the nomination would be deemed dead.

Your Committee wholeheartedly supports the confirmation of Loren S. Robert as one of the members representing this Nation to the US-FSM Compact of Free Association Joint Economic Management Committee and urges Congress to approve his nomination expeditiously.

Your Committee would like to make one amendment to the resolution as follows:

1. Page 1, line 10 - delete "Fifth Special Session, 2008", and insert "Sixth Regular Session, 2009" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operation is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-171 and recommends its adoption as C.R. No. 15-171, C.D.1

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, chairman

Fredrico O. Primo, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

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

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Moses A. Nelson
Moses A. Nelson, member

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