

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-45

RE: C.R. NO. 15-41/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. GERSON JACKSON TO BE
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your committee on External Affairs to which was referred
C.R. No. 15-41, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. GERSON
JACKSON TO BE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA..",

begs leave to report as follows:

The nominee is well known to your committee as the Chairman
of the JCN, which negotiated the Amended Compact, and as the
longtime Lieutenant Governor of the State of Kosrae. Your
committee feels that his substantial public service
experience will be an asset to whatever position he might
pursue.

On September 24, 2007 your committee held a confirmation
hearing. Witnesses were first the nominee by himself, and
subsequently a number of staff from the Department of
Foreign Affairs headed by Acting Secretary Jane Chigiyal.
Chairman Welly chaired the hearing. Members of Congress also
present included Speaker Figir, Vice Speaker Moses, Chairmen
Nelson, Neth and Urusemal, Vice Chairman Aritos and Senators
Paul and Phillip.

The nominee indicated his gratitude for the nomination and
pledged to work with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to
remedy certain problems with the Department of Foreign
Affairs and the overseas offices that are hampering the
foreign relations of the nation. The nominee sees certain
management problems within the Department and the overseas
offices. He also sees the five-year review of the Compact as
a national priority, and hopes to contribute to that. He

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identified apparent micromanagement as the problem with the Compact as currently implemented.

After the nominee's exit from the hearing, the departmental staff was invited in and asked their opinion. Speaking for the Department, Acting Secretary Chigiyal stated that the Department supports the nomination. She mentioned the nominee's previous roles as Chairman of JCN and Lieutenant Governor as real assets for the Department. Asked to clarify the role of the Deputy Secretary, she testified that it was mainly administrative and that she saw the nominee's experience as Lieutenant Governor as immediately relevant. She also mentioned that the President was waiting for the confirmation of this nomination before working on nominees for the overseas offices.

Based on his credentials, the testimony of the nominee and the witnesses, your committee is of the opinion that the nominee is a good choice for Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and recommends his confirmation by adoption of C.R. No. 15-41.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth
Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Roosevelt D. Kansou
Roosevelt D. Kansou, member

Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Setiro Paul
Setiro Paul, member