

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-82

RE: C.R. NO. 15-83/J&GO

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. MIDION G. NETH TO BE THE
POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2008

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations ("J&GO"), to which was referred C.R. No. 15-83 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. MIDION G. NETH TO BE THE POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Mr. Neth has been nominated by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to be the Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia. Title 39, section 103(1) of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia sets out that this nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress.

Mr. Neth's curriculum vitae is included in Presidential Communication 15-122. Some points are summarized here. During the previous administration, Mr. Neth held the position of Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs. Previously, he worked as Disaster Coordinator in the Office of the President and Director of Commerce and Industry for the Pohnpei State Government. The nominee was a Pohnpei State Senator, for three terms, from 1984 until 1996. Mr. Neth has also been Federal Program Coordinator for secondary schools and a teacher.

PUBLIC HEARING

Your committee held a public hearing on the nomination in the afternoon of Tuesday, February 12, 2008. Present were Chairman Sitan as well as Senators Halbert, Nelson, Primo, Suka and Welly. The acting Postmaster General, Mr. Jack Jack, and two members of his staff were also in attendance.

Mr. Neth made an opening statement, highlighting his plans, if nominated, to improve and advance efficiency in mail delivery and the

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general management of postal services in the FSM. He proposed to better utilize the postmasters of our four states and all the human resources of our FSM postal services. The nominee said he supports strict adherence to the FSM Public Service System regulations and believes in equal pay for equal work and the implementation of performance evaluations of staff. Mr. Neth pledged, if confirmed, to provide the President with quarterly progress reports, with copies to Speaker and your committee, and undertook to maintain the highest operational transparency of our FSM postal services.

There was a question regarding how the nominee would deal with mail that arrives late, due to flight delays, and the possibility that a postal officer may take the mail to her or his residence when the post office is closed. Mr. Neth said there must be a clear understanding in the contracts of those who deliver the mail to minimize the possibility of mail being lost or tampered with. Mr. Neth said he would either invite all state postmasters to Pohnpei or visit each of the states himself to investigate their various concerns.

In response to a question as to how the post office can raise additional revenue, Mr. Neth suggested we focus on philatelic sales. He also advocated the creation of an FSM postal services website that the public can access.

Mr. Neth was asked if he felt prepared to follow in the footsteps of Bethwel Henry and Leo Falcam, two illustrious Micronesians who served previously as Postmaster General. The nominee assured your committee of his certainty that he can do the job. He said he is prepared to learn and educate himself and work closely with people. The nominee assured your committee that, if confirmed, he will not disappoint.

Mr. Neth was asked if he had good working relationships with his counterparts in the United States when he was with the FSM Department of Education. The nominee responded he was confident that he did.

In closing, Mr. Neth said he had taken note of all concerns and questions raised at the hearing with regard to our FSM postal services. Addressing them, he said, would be among his first projects, if confirmed as Postmaster General. He mentioned the problem of outer islanders not receiving notification when mail is waiting for them. He also noted the competition FSM postal services

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are now receiving from courier services, acknowledging that, although they are expensive, couriers normally deliver on time. The nominee said this proves that people are prepared to pay for reliable service. Mr. Neth said, if confirmed, he would return with a plan and a budget to address these and other concerns.

Acting Postmaster General Jack and his staff all affirmed their support for the nominee and said they were prepared to work with and assist him.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above information about Mr. Neth, your committee is satisfied with the qualifications and dedication of the nominee and recommends him with confidence for the position of Postmaster General.

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-83 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 15-83.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, chairman

/s/ Fredrico O. Primo
Fredrico O. Primo, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

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