

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-153

RE: C.R. NO. 17-161/R&D

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE MARITIME
BOUNDARIES TREATY BETWEEN THE FSM AND ROP

SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Regular Session, 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was jointly referred C.R. NO. 17-161, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE TREATY BETWEEN THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU
CONCERNING MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND COOPERATION ON RELATED
MATTERS, WHICH WAS SIGNED ON BEHALF OF BOTH STATE PARTIES IN
2006.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Congressional Resolution No. 17-161 was transmitted to Congress on August 3, 2012 through Presidential Communication No. 17-273. The resolution is about a boundary delimitation treaty, and the President has urged Congress to ratify this treaty.

On September 26, 2012, your Committees on Resources and Development and External Affairs conducted a joint public hearing on Congressional Resolution No. 17-161. In attendance were Acting Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Kandi Elieisar, Foreign Service Officer, Brendy Carl, Acting Secretary of the Department of Justice, Johnson Asher, Assistant Attorney Generals Jun Bacalando and Lorrie Asher, Executive Director of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority Patrick Mackenzie, Chief of Staff Churchill Edward, and Special Assistant to the President on Legislative matters Semeon Phillip.

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During the hearing on C.R. No. 17-161, your Committee learned that the two nations negotiated this treaty and signed it in 2006 and it was never submitted to Congress for ratification. The treaty is basically boundary delimitation on the overlap boundaries between the Exclusive Economic Zones of the two nations. By signing and ratifying this treaty, both nations agreed to exercise sovereign rights over the established and recognized line of delimitation between the Exclusive Economic Zones and the continental shelves pursuant to international treaty obligations.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-161, and recommends its adoption.

