

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-165

RE: C.B. NO. 17-192, C.D.1 (P.C. NO. 17-331)/W&M

SUBJECT: LINE ITEM VETO OF CONGRESSIONAL BILL NO.
17-192, C.D.1

NOVEMBER 23, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred Presidential Communication No. 17-331 and Congressional Bill No. 17-192, C.D.1, begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee finds the vetoes to be grounded solely in policy. To justify vetoes of the FEMA payments, the President alleges that certain items raise ambiguities and may be unconstitutional on equal protection grounds. Your Committee finds this argument unconvincing.

Furthermore, your Committee believes no clarification is needed relating to Yap's share. The advance is to be refunded into the listed projects by the Governor of Yap. Your Committee also wishes to note that the Office of Environment and Emergency Management provided all amounts owed to FEMA.

Regarding the funded public projects and social programs, the President alleges that many are not linked to the Strategic Development Plan and will not have lasting impact on the economy. Your Committee considers these arguments representative of the President's policy priorities; as such your Committee considers the vetoes to be the result of policy decisions. Your Committee has revisited the items subjected to veto, has found the vetoed items to be consistent with sound public policy, and therefore disagrees with the decisions to veto.

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CONCLUSION

Your Committee on Ways and Means is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 17-192, C.D.1 and recommends it be placed on the bill calendar for veto override.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, chairman

/s/ Peter M. Christian
Peter M. Christian, member

Roger S. Mori, member

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

Paliknoa K. Welly, member