

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-37

RE: C.R. NO. 17-21/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. ANDREW  
YATILMAN TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF  
THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF  
MICRONESIA

AUGUST 06, 2011

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir  
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
First Special Session, 2011

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred  
C.R. No. 17-21, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.  
ANDREW YATILMAN TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF  
THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF  
MICRONESIA." ,

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On July 13, 2011, the President transmitted to Congress the nomination  
of Mr. Andrew Yatilman via Presidential Communication No. 17-37. Mr.  
Yatilman has been nominated by the President for the position of  
Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management of the  
Federated States of Micronesia. Title 2, section 207(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. Yatilman is originally from the State of Yap where he received his  
primary education and began his secondary education. He transferred  
to Xavier High School in Chuuk where he graduated in 1980. Mr.  
Yatilman began his post secondary education at Mangilao College of

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-37

RE: C.R. NO. 17-21/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. ANDREW YATILMAN TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

AUGUST 06, 2011

Business and Public Administration of the University of Guam in 1980. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration in 1986. During 1990 and 1991 he attended postgraduate studies at the Manoa School of Public Health of the University of Hawaii, receiving a certificate in International Public Health Policy and Planning.

Mr. Yatilman has broad work experience beginning with part-time work as a peer counselor at the University of Guam while attending undergraduate school. During that time he also worked as a part time assistant researcher with the Micronesian Area Research Center of the University. After completing his college degree in 1986, he took employment as assistant principal, counselor and teacher at Xavier High School in Chuuk. In 1988 he became the Health Planner/Statistics Coordinator for the Yap State Department of Health Services, and later became the Assistant Director of that Department where he served from 1991 to 1999.

In 1999, Mr. Yatilman was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Yap. His responsibilities included chairing the Executive Budget Review Committee and also the Public Sector Reform Program for the State of Yap.

After leaving his elected position in 2003, Mr. Yatilman became the General Manager of the Yap Visitors Bureau where he served until March 2005, when he was confirmed to the position of Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure. As the head of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, Mr. Yatilman was responsible for the general supervision of the operations of the Department and also advised the President on policy issues relating to marine transportation, civil aviation, and telecommunication and infrastructure development in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Committee specifically notes the vast contribution Mr. Yatilman has made to his community, state and Nation in the form of his service on numerous boards and commissions between 1986 and the present. Included in this impressive list is his service as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Yap State Public Service Corporation, as a member of the Board of Directors of the FSM Visitors Board, as a member of the Board of Directors of the YNN Networker (private

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-37

RE: C.R. NO. 17-21/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. ANDREW YATILMAN TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

AUGUST 06, 2011

newspaper), a member of the Board Directors of NORMA from 2000 to 2004, as a member and the current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Satawal Island Trust for Environmental Protection and Community Development, as the former Chairman and Vice Chairman and current Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Regents of the COM Land Grant Program, and as a member and the current Chairman of the Micronesian Shipping Commission.

Your Committee held a public hearing on the nomination on August 03, 2011. The hearing was conducted in two sessions, the first being with the nominee, himself, and the second held with the staff members and employees of the FSM who have worked with and for the nominee. Present were Chairman Roger S. Mori, committee members Yosiwo P. George, Florencio Singkoro Harper, Joseph J. Urusemal, Bonsiano F. Nethon, and David W. Panuelo. Also, in attendance were Senators Dohsis Halbert and Paliknoa K. Welly. Marcellus Akapito, representing the Office of the President, was present during this hearing.

Chairman Mori welcomed the nominee, and yielded the floor to the Special Assistant to the President, Mr. Akapito, to start with reasons why the Committee should confirm the nominee. Mr. Akapito indicated to the Committee that the President still trusts the nominee, that this is why he sent his nomination.

The Chairman then yielded the floor to the nominee for any comments on his nomination. The nominee thanked the Committee members for the opportunity to appear before them, and affirmed that he has accepted the nomination. Mr. Yatilman indicated that the President told him that if he is confirmed, he should formulate a reform plan for the Office. He commented that there is already a Joint National Plan that addresses climate change. However, he will try to assist the states because he feels that there is some disconnection between his Office and the states. He further explained that the Office and the Department of Resources and Development seem to have overlapping responsibilities, so he needs to work out these issues with the Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development.

When questioned about some of the challenges faced by his Office, the nominee indicated that he needs to strengthen the collaboration of his staff to assist him in the two divisions under the Office. He

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-37

RE: C.R. NO. 17-21/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. ANDREW YATILMAN TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

AUGUST 06, 2011

indicated that there is only one staff member under the Division of Environment. Mr. Yatilman confirmed that much of the initial responsibility for environmental matters rests with the state governments, but that he has considered the important role of the Office in coordinating such activities. The "Micronesian Challenge" was cited as one example of National participation in conservation and environmental preservation.

Mr. Yatilman stated that one of his priorities would be working with state offices in obtaining USAID funding and implementing and following through on FEMA or USAID projects. Another will be establishing a current disaster and emergency response plan for the Nation. He stated that one of the initial responsibilities of the new Director would be to define the role of that Office and the National Government in relation to disaster response and to work with state offices to insure that plans are in place.

Your Committee inquired of the nominee concerning three specific accomplishments that, as Director he managed to fulfill in the Office during his watch. The nominee indicated that in the international arena, FSM has been recognized as a leader in addressing climate change. He also indicated that several UN grants were funneled to the states while he was the Director, and he has pushed for more staff in his Office.

Your Committee inquired of the nominee concerning the transition of the FEMA Program into USAID. The nominee explained that the FEMA Program has already changed to USAID. Your Committee also inquired whether the nominee would like the Office to be changed into a Department. The nominee indicated that to change the Office into a Department would be greatly beneficial, because during international meetings, his portfolio as a Director is not considered equivalent to the Ministerial level. This has been disadvantageous to him on several occasions.

Mr. Yatilman said that if confirmed, he would do his best to organize this Office into an efficient and effective voice for environmental and emergency issues within the National government.

Your Committee is satisfied with the qualifications and dedication of

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-37

RE: C.R. NO. 17-21/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. ANDREW  
YATILMAN TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF  
THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF  
MICRONESIA

AUGUST 06, 2011

the nominee and particularly acknowledges his past service to his State and National Governments as well as to so many nongovernmental organizations. Those experiences have provided Mr. Yatilman with solid knowledge and experience and have prepared him to take on the responsibilities of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-21 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger S. Mori  
Roger S. Mori, chairman

/s/ Yosiwo P. George  
Yosiwo P. George, vice chairman

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

/s/ Florencio S. Harper  
Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon  
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

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

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