

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-08

RE: C.R. NO. 19-19/R&D

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. ANDREW YATILMAN TO  
SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

MAY 29, 2105

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
First Regular Session, 2105

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was  
referred C.R. No. 19-19, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. ANDRE  
YATILMAN TO SERVE AS THE 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 May 20, 2015, the President transmitted to Congress the  
nomination of Mr. Andrew Yatilman via Presidential  
Communication No. 19-20. 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 sets out that this nomination is subject to the  
advice and consent of Congress.

Mr. Yatilman is originally from the State of Yap here he

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received his primary education and began his secondary education. He transferred to Xavier High School in Chuuk where he graduated 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 part time assistance researcher with the Micronesian Area Research Center of the University. After completing his college degree in 1986, he took employment as assistance 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 Assistance 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, communications and Infrastructure. As the head of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications 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

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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 Chairman 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 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 former Chairman of the Micronesian Shipping Commission.

Your Committee held a public hearing on the nomination on May 27, 2015. Chairman Panuelo welcomed the nominee and the witnesses, and gave the nominee an opportunity to comment on his nomination. The nominee thanked the Committee members for the opportunity to appear before them, and affirmed that he has accepted the nomination. The nominee indicated that the President has approached him, and asked whether he still want to work under him in his new administration. The nominee respectfully agreed, and indicated that he will continue to do his best to do his duties and responsibilities. He also thanked the staff of the Office of Emergency and Environment Management for their continued support. Mr. Yatilman said that if confirmed, he would do his best to organize the Office into an efficient and effective voice for environmental and emergency issues within the National Government. The staff and employees of the National Government who have worked with the nominee supported his nomination.

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Your Committee inquired about the declaration of emergency, especially from the State of Pohnpei. He stated that the Chief of Staff was tasked by the President on the emergency. The procedure is that if a governor of a state responds responsively to a disaster, then there is no need of an emergency. Unless, a governor of a state cannot respond responsively to an emergency, then the Governor should or need to request the President to declare an emergency for that particular state. Acting Secretary of the Department of Justice, Joses Gallen, also commented on the cancellation of the declaration of emergency by Pohnpei State. He explained that on May 18, 2015, there was an assessment report on the Islands of Pingelap and Mwokilloa. However, there is a cancellation of an emergency issued by the Governor of Pohnpei State on May 19, 2015, saying that there is no longer an emergency, but just cleaning up after Typhoon Dolphin.

The nominee also explained the latest news on the recovery in the States of Yap and Chuuk after Typhoon Maysak. The nominee indicated that now that President Obama issued a declaration of emergency for Yap and Chuuk States, and US AID provided relief assistances to the two respective states. The arrangement is that IOM may do it because USAID has a contract with IOM. The Food Administration Organization (FAO) also supplemented the response assistance by providing funding to provide seedling to the outer islands that were affected.

Your Committee is satisfied with the qualifications and dedication of 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. Generally, the witnesses present during the confirmation hearing expressed their strong support for the

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nominee.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with  
the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-19 and recommends its  
adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, chairman

/s/ Victor V. Gouland  
Victor V. Gouland, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Berney Martin  
Berney Martin, member

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

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

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, member