

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO: 19-12

RE: C.R. NO. 19-26/T&C

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. LUKNER B.
WEILBACHER TO SEVER AS THE SECRETARY FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

JULY 14, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Transportation and Communication, to
which was referred C.R. No. 19-26, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. LUKNER B.
WEILBACHER TO SERVE AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF
THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held a hearing with the nominee on July 8,
2015. Present at the hearing were representatives of all
divisions of the Department of TC&I.

The nominee is well known to your Committee. He has
received his Bachelor degree at the California Maritime
Academy and has spent a large part of his career in marine
affairs, starting with the Trust Territory in Saipan. He

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served under Presidents Olter and Nena as the Secretary of TC&I and at various technical jobs including the manager of power generation for PUC.

Speaking for the Committee, Chairman Gouland opened the hearing with the main concern of committee members, the possibility of conflict of interests due to the family relationship between President Christian and the nominee (they are brothers-in-laws).

In response the nominee stated that potential conflict of interests situations are something that he is familiar with, and he had to deal with them several times during his career due to the large number of his family members, the Weilbachers, who were involved in marine affairs, so that at different times in his career he was supervised by family members. He believes that he has handled all such occasions with professionalism in the best interest of the Nation, and has not hesitated to resign on occasions to preserve the integrity of his position.

When asked for his vision of the Department should he be confirmed, he stated that he will spend the first two months reviewing in detail the operations of the Department in order to improve it. He will expedite pending matters, such as the Palau-Yap fiber optics. He will reorganize the Marine Division to insure fair service to all four states and prepare ship schedules for an entire year. He will also review the operations of the domestic airline, CIA, and the Infrastructure Division. He is disappointed by the slow progress of the PMU, and will definitely consider restructuring options.

The staff of TC&I spoke up in turn and were overwhelmingly supportive. They praised his technical knowledge as exhibited in the last few months when he was brought in as

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a consultant to assist TC&I. The person who knew him the longest said that he gets an "A" as a supervisor.

When asked whether his previous connection with GMP would affect his decision-making he categorically answered no.

The Committee wanted to know what the nominee considers his most important achievements. He answered as follows:

1. Under his direction the FSM completed a survey that became the basis for the Infrastructure Development Plan for the amended Compact.
2. While he was the Secretary of TC&I, he was instrumental in introducing and getting Congress to adopt the main legislation on air transport, marine and telecommunications for the FSM.
3. He contributed to the design of the MS Voyager, especially the front ramp.

Your Committee is impressed with the nominee's experience and knowledge, and believes he has allayed its concerns about conflict of interests.

Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, as soon as possible, to serve as the Secretary for the Department of TC&I.

Your Committee on Transportation and Communication is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-26 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Robson Romoluw
Robson Romolow, vice chairman

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

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S Perman, member

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Alik L. Alik
Alik L. Alik, member