

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-81

RE: C.R. NO. 19-63/R&D

SUBJECT: RATIFYING THE AMENDMENTS IN 2009, 2011 AND  
2013 OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON  
PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

NOVEMBER 20, 2015

The Honorable Wesley Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Third Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred  
C.R. No. 19-63, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE AMENDMENTS IN 2009, 2011, AND  
2013 OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC  
POLLUTANTS TO WHICH THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA IS A  
PARTY.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On September 14, 2015, the President transmitted Congressional  
Resolution No. 19-63 to Congress through Presidential Communication  
No. 19-82. The said resolution contains new amendments to the  
Stockholm Convention, which the Conference of Parties adopted in  
2009, 2011 and 2013. These new amendments have added new pollutants  
to the existing list of hazardous chemicals under the convention.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on Congressional Resolution  
No. 19-63 on November 18, 2015. Witnesses included the Director of  
the Office of Emergency and Environment Management (OEEM), Mr. Andrew

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Yatilman and his appropriate staff. Chairman David W. Panuelo opened the hearing and gave an opportunity to the witnesses to explain the purpose of the resolution.

Director Yatilman explained that there were certain amendments to the the Stockholm Convention and FSM, as party to the Convention, needs to ratify these amendments. Director explained that once the ratification of the amendments is done, then FSM can receive funding to fulfill its obligations under the said convention.

Director Yatilman explained that there were certain hazardous chemicals found in the FSM. Some of these hazardous chemicals are not disposed properly. For example, asbestos is found everywhere in the FSM and his office is trying its best to collect and dispose of this properly.

Your Committee asked whether OEEM has the capability to collect the hazardous chemicals found in the FSM. Director Yatilman stated that the important thing is to have a storehouse to store all of these hazardous chemicals. Since his office does not have the resources to collect such harmful chemicals, the office is trying its best to seek technical assistance from other parties to the Convention. The staff of OEEM explained that SPREP and the FSM are working together to identify harmful chemicals in the FSM.

As a Party to the Stockholm Convention, the FSM needs to ratify these amendments, which identified the twenty-three (23) hazardous chemicals listed in the convention.

Your Committee wishes to offer a technical amendment to read as follows:

1. Page 1, line 15, delete "First", and insert "Third" in lieu thereof.

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Your Committee on Committee on Resources and Development is,  
therefore, in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No.  
19-63, and recommends its adoption in the form attached as C.R.  
No. 19-63,C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, vice chairman

Victor V. Gouland, member

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

/s/ Berney Martin  
Berney Martin, member

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

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