

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-93

RE: C.R. NO. 19-161/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.
AKILLINO SUSAIA TO SERVE AS THE
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 03, 2016

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred
C.R. No. 19-161, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF
MR. AKILLINO SUSAIA TO SERVE AS THE
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On January 18, 2016, the President transmitted the said
resolution to Congress through Presidential Communication
No. 19-239. Attached with the communication is the
nominee's resume.

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Your Committee reviewed the qualifications of the nominee extensively. The nominee previously served in several positions, as the FSM Ambassador to the People's Republic of China; as the Consul General at the FSM Consulate in Honolulu, Hawaii; as the Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs, which is now the Department of Resources and Development; as the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure; as General Manager of the Pohnpei Port Authority; as the Budget Officer of the Pohnpei State Legislature; and as a Legislative Aide of the Pohnpei State Legislature.

The nominee received a Master of Arts in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on the said resolution. Chairman Paliknoa K. Welly chaired the hearing and welcome the nominee and the witnesses.

At the initial stage of the hearing, Chairman Welly commented that he thought the nominee was very disgusted working for the government that is why he left. The nominee frankly stated that he will continue to work for this nation and show the best of what he can offer.

Your Committee also inquired of the nominee what he thinks how other countries would perceive him as an Ambassador to China and later as a Secretary. The nominee stressed that we have to be mindful of our treatment with foreign countries. It is best to nurture our relationships with foreign countries in order to continue the bonds we have.

Your Committee further expressed its own disappointment over JEMCO, especially the disadvantage of the

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composition of the FSM in the JEMCO. Looking at this, if he is confirmed, what are some of the changes he would be making from here forward. The nominee stated that the U.S. needs to assist the FSM in its shortfalls. It is this thinking that the Trust Fund was established although insufficient to assist the FSM. Therefore, the U.S. should abide by its commitment.

There was discussion on the C.R. No. 19-155, which is a resolution introduced in Congress and still pending with the relevant Committee. Your Committee asked the nominee if confirmed will he do something at least to educate those who are not fully understanding the resolution. The nominee indicated that it will be premature for the Executive to comment on the resolution because the resolution is still pending in Congress. Although the Committee was assured that the President has already decided to visit residents out there on his out reach programs and conduct education on the said resolution.

Your Committee also asked what happens if the nominee is confirmed, but the current Secretary Lorin Robert is not confirmed. Your Committee was informed that technically once Secretary Robert accepted the offer by the President to be nominated to the Ambassador position, since he is serving under the pleasure of the President, the Secretary's position is vacated. The President must realize that he is being replaced by virtue of the confirmation of Mr. Susaia assuming this resolution is adopted.

Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee.

Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends

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Mr. Akillino Susaia be confirmed to serve as the
Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the
intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-161, and recommends its
adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

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

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

/s/ Victor V. Goulard
Victor V. Goulard, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

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

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