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Joint Resolution Approving the
"Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands in Political
Union with the United States of America"

WHEREAS, the United States is the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under the terms for the Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese mandated islands entered into by the United States with the Security Council of the United Nations on April 2, 1947, and approved by the United States on July 18, 1947; and

WHEREAS, the United States, in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations, has assumed the obligation to promote the development of the peoples of the Trust Territory towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and its peoples and the freely expresses wishes of the peoples concerned; and

WHEREAS the United States, in response to the desires of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands clearly expressed over the past twenty years through public petition and referendum, and in response to its own obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement to promote self-determination, entered into political status negotiations with representatives of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 1975, a "Covenant to Establish A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America" was signed by the

Marianas Political Status Commission for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and by the President's Personal Representative, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, for the United States of America, following which the Covenant was approved by the Mariana Islands District Legislature on February 20, 1975 and by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a plebiscite held on June 17, 1975: Now be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Covenant to Establish A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America is approved as follows:

/Full Commonwealth Covenant would be copied in the body of the Joint Resolution/