

Conclusion And Recommendation

Everything after the word "Covenant" in the "No" ballot is superfluous and even misleading. Because of that unnecessary language, peripheral issues are implied, there are actual inconsistencies in the ballot, and unsavory emotional and political considerations are emphasized.

There can be little doubt that, whatever the intent of the drafter, the unnecessary language in the "No" ballot will discourage people from voting for the "No", which cannot possibly be understood, and encourage them to vote for the simpler and understandable "Yes."

You have said the plebiscite should be fair and impartial. Surely the people of the Northern Marianas and of the United States fully agree. Nobody has any interest in permitting this crucial decision to be influenced by considerations other than whether people are for or against Commonwealth as set forth in the Covenant.

We therefore respectfully request deletion of all language in the "No" ballot after the word Covenant, so that, leaving the "Yes" ballot unchanged, the ballots would read as follows:

YES - I vote for Commonwealth as set forth in the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America.

NO - I vote against Commonwealth in political union with the United States as set forth in the Covenant.

Unless such a change is made, there can be no "fair and impartial" plebiscite. We respectfully urge your prompt and full consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

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<i>Guillermo Gumarao</i>	<i>Chief S. Olaya</i>
<i>Augustin M. Lagabuel</i>	<i>James M. Jones</i>
<i>M. H. Bahau</i>	<i>Billie</i>
<i>Thomas R. Claitor</i>	<i>Debutto</i>
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