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Juan T. Lizama, Esq.
Chairman, Committee on
Government Institutions,
Second Northern Marianas
Constitutional Convention
Saipan, Cm. 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee and offer comments relative to requirements and qualifications for the Office of Attorney General of the Commonwealth.

I have worked in various positions in the Attorneys General Office of Alaska and the Commonwealth. I have, based on my experience come to believe that the position of Attorney General should be an elective one, especially here in the CMNI. The basic argument in favor of an elective Attorney General is given as being that he is an attorney for all the people and should be chosen by the people. The Attorney General is a "government watchdog". (Attorney William J. Scott).

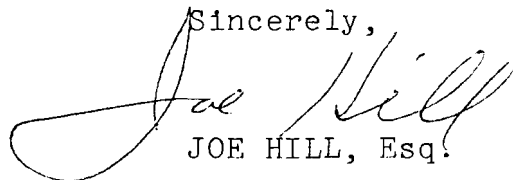
The argument for an elective Attorney General has been summed up, thusly:

"An elected Attorney General has a measure of independence and a sense of personal and direct responsibility to the public. The elected official has a natural and impelling desire to be creative and to exercise broader initiative in the service of the public. He is free of the fear of dismissal by any superior official if he should exercise contrary independent judgment. He is in the best position to render maximum service to the People and impartial advice to the Governor, the

Legislature and State departments and agencies. He can appear in Court without fear or favor -- an attorney in the fullest and finest sense of the word". Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz, Position Paper of Louis J. Lefkowitz Attorney General, to Constitutional Convention, Committee on the Executive Branch, June 1, 1967, Albany, N.Y.

I would thus encourage this Committee to consider an elective Attorney General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Hill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name "JOE HILL, Esq.". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

JOE HILL, Esq.

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