



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Governor

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

CABLE ADDRESS  
GOV. NMI SAIPAN

JUN 28 1985

Delegate Lorenzo I. Guerrero  
Chairman, Committee on Finance and  
Other Matters  
Second Northern Marianas Constitutional  
Covention  
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Chairman Guerrero:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the various delegate proposals that are scheduled for today's public hearing. The following comments are submitted for your consideration and deliberation:

1. Proposals 5-85 and 68-85:

Proposals 5-85 and 68-85 are similar in nature. Proposal 5-85 proposes an expenditure ceiling for the Legislative Branch at not more than \$3 million per fiscal year or less than 5% of the previous fiscal year budget. Whereby, proposal 68-85 proposed even lesser amount of \$2.5 million limit.

This may have merit to conserve funds; however, this issue can be easily resolved through the Legislative process instead of making it a Constitutional provision.

2. Proposal 85-85:

Public Law 3-68 presently addresses this issue.

3. Proposal 89-85:

The Commonwealth has no system in place to support either of the evaluations. It recommended that a system be developed further and implemented through the normal Legislative procedures. The assess basis is more common in developed economies.

4. Proposal 99-85:

We support the intent of this proposed amendment, but it can be more appropriately handled through the normal Legislative process.

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5. Proposal 108-85:

This proposal add a new Section 5 to Article X, defining entertainment expenses and naming those positions/titles that are entitled to use it. It also restricts the use of entertainment expenses to entertaining people from outside the Commonwealth only.

Public Law 4-32 repealed 1 CMC 1201 to 1203 relating to Official Representation Allowance. Therefore, it would be most appropriate if this subject matter is addressed through Legislative procedures, rather than a Constitutional amendment.

6. Proposal 110-85:

Public Law 3-68 presently addresses this issue adequately. The full impact of this proposed amendment would strip the agencies or corporation of its so called autonomy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



James H. Ripple  
Acting Special Assistant for  
Planning and Budgeting

cc: SAPLR