



# COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P. O. BOX 1055 • SAIPAN • CM 96950

June 29, 1985

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon various delegate proposals set for hearing by your Committee on June 29. The Authority has no comment on Delegate Proposals No. 4-85 and 108-85. As these would not directly affect the operations of the Authority, we do not believe that comment would be appropriate.

To the extent that Delegate Proposal No. 6-85 is intended to apply to independent public corporations such as the Authority, we must respectfully oppose this measure. In the first place, the subject matter of the proposal clearly appears to be one more properly dealt with by legislation, rather than an amendment to the Constitution. In the second place, the measure is unworkable; as it is presently worded, public bidding would be required for even the smallest purchases, and even when emergency conditions would warrant circumventing a public bidding process. Finally, requiring public bidding, as the proposal does, rather than a public solicitation of proposals, for professional services, is unwise at best.

To the extent that Delegate Proposal No. 41-85 would restrict the Authority in the expenditure of capital improvement funds for seaport and airport development, that Authority must also oppose that measure. The management and administration of the ports of the Commonwealth have been wisely delegated to the Authority by law; the construction of capital improvement projects at the airports and seaports is an essential part of the Authority's responsibility and is more appropriately within our area of expertise.

Similarly, this proposal raises several important and troubling questions. Would the mayors have control of CIP funds appropriated by the Federal Aviation Administration? Earmarked by CPA out of its own funds?

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We understand and appreciate the desire of the people of Rota and Tinian for more complete control over their own affairs. However, we suggest that the subject matter of this proposal is again one which should more properly be dealt with by the Legislature, and not through a constitutional amendment.

For the foregoing reasons, the Authority respectfully urges that Delegate Proposals No. 6-85 and 41-85 be filed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us whenever we may be of assistance to your Committee or to the Convention. We thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



CARLOS A. SHODA  
Executive Director