

SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

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REPORT TO THE CONVENTION BY THE
COMMITTEE ON PERSONAL RIGHTS & NATURAL RESOURCES

Members

SUBJECT: Committee Recommendation No. 17

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The Committee finds that the most appropriate method for voting in referendum for proposed amendments to the Constitution is by Articles, rather than by an entire package or section or subsection. The predominant reason for advocating voting by article is to prevent potential conflicts arising from approving sections or subsections.

The Constitution is organized by Articles, according to their main intent. Each article represents a unique purpose, and each section and subsection delineates and further defines the scope of the Article. If one section or subsection is not approved by the voters but others are, then the original intent of the Article could be threatened.

For an example, say for subsections of Article XI Section 4 are up for ratification by the voters. Subsection (a) provides for the executive director and composition of the board of directors for Marianas while subsections (b-d) deal with other matters. If subsection (a) is not approved but (b-d) are approved, then Marianas Public Land Corporation could be effectively without director or board of directors.

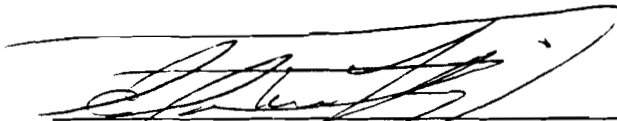
If the entire proposed amendments are presented to the voters as a whole for single "yes" or "no" vote, there is a high risk that the entire work of the Convention could be voted down. If the public has a strong opposition to any single proposed amendment, they have only the choice of either accepting that proposed amendment or rejecting the entire proposed amendments. On the other hand, if the voters are ^{to} vote per article of the Constitution, they may reject one article and accept another article or articles.

*Withdrawn
by Del. Nabors
7/13/85*


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The Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources endorsed Resolution No. 6-85, Committee Draft 1 and urges the Committee of the Whole to adopt it in the best interests of our Constitution.

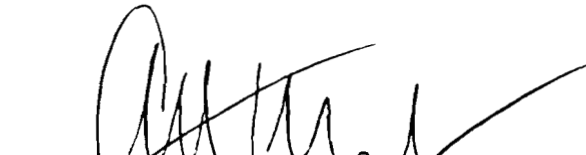
Respectfully submitted,




Delegate Esteven M. King
Chairman



Delegate Joaquin A. Tenorio
Vice-Chairman



Delegate Aniceto H. Mundo
Member



Delegate Karl T. Reyes
Member



Delegate Ramon G. Villagomez
Member