



**VISITORS BUREAU** P.O. Box 861 / Saipan, C.M. 96950  
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July 8, 1985

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

Dear Chairman Guerrero:

Thank you for inviting us to comment on several proposed amendments to the Commonwealth Constitution. Below are our comments:

Proposal 246-85. To Prohibit Gambling in All Forms for Ten Years. This proposal if passed would affect bingo and cockfights events which are very much a part of our cultural heritage. In addition, it would not permit fundraising drives, particularly, the Rotary Club's "Casino Night" in which proceeds from the event are used to fund its various community service projects. Poker machines which generates money into our local coffers would also be banned. Currently, over half a million dollars are generated from poker machine license fees and about \$300,000 from gross receipts of businesses which operate or own the machines.

Proposal 255-85. Relating to Compensation of Resident Department Heads. Since this issue is not within our area of jurisdiction, we ask that you waive our input on this matter.

Proposal 266-85. To Permit the Board of Education to Levy a Business Gross Revenue Tax Surcharge to Finance Public Education. Such a matter could be addressed through legislative action.

Proposal 256-85. To require TV Stations to carry at least Four Years of Local Programs. There is a limited number of local programs in existence. To impose such a requirement will be costly and lead to the eventual closing down of such business.

Proposal 273-85. To limit the Number of Alien Workers in any Island in the CNMI to 25%. We share the concerns regarding alien labor. We believe





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that there is a bill pending in the Legislature which addresses this issue. A constitutional provision setting a ceiling on alien labor would be somewhat restrictive. For example, should a natural disaster or a construction boom occur, it would necessitate bringing in non-resident workers to help us in emergency situations due to our lack of manpower resources. We recommend that restrictions on alien labor importation be made transitional in time to allow our residents to receive the proper training.

Proposal 293-85. To Establish the official Language of the Northern Marianas and Regulate the use of Foreign Languages. We are concerned with the section mandating that all signs must be accompanied by an English translation. We feel that such a requirement maybe costly since it also means that signs in Chamorro must have an English version. In addition, there are signs at the various peace memorials that will have to be translated in English since they are written in other languages, and this represents a costly financial and space requirement.

We hope the above comments will help your committee in its deliberations.

Hafa adai,

J.M. GUERRERO  
Managing Director

