



# COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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

July 8, 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 on Delegate Proposals No. 246-85, 255-85, 256-85, 266-85, 273-85, and 293-85, all of which are set for hearing on Monday, July 8, at 9:00 a.m.

We regret that we were not able to get these comments to you in time for the hearing. However, we did not receive the notice of hearing until late in the afternoon of July 5.

We also regret that no representative of the Authority will be able to be present at the hearing; the Chairman and most of our Board members, as well as the undersigned and our legal counsel, will be off island on that date. However, we hope that these written comments will suffice.

The Authority has no position on Delegate Proposals No. 255-85, 256-85, 266-85, 273-85, and 293-85. None of these measures will affect the operations of the Authority, and for that reason, we do not believe that our comments would be appropriate.

We do, however, wish to comment on Delegate Proposal No. 246-85. The Authority takes no position on gambling among the general population. However, the Authority has previously gone on record as requesting legislative authorization to install and operate slot machines in the departure lounge at Saipan International Airport. In such a location, access to the machines would be strictly limited to persons holding boarding passes for departing flights. Since most of the passengers who depart Saipan International Airport are not residents of the Commonwealth, the potential adverse impact of slot machines upon our people would be minimized. At the same time, the slot machines would provide a sorely-needed additional source of revenue for the Authority. As noted above, the bulk of this revenue would come from tourists.

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In summary, if gambling is to be prohibited, the Authority hopes that the Delegate Proposal can be amended to permit slot machines in the departure lounge at Saipan International Airport.

Please do not hesitate to call on us whenever we may provide any further information to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Shoda', written in dark ink.

CARLOS A. SHODA  
Executive Director