

President

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House of Representatives
FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
P.O. Box
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

DP NO. 250-85

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JUAN B. TUDELA
Vice Speaker

July 9, 1985

COMMITTEES:

- Health, Education & Welfare
Vice Chairman
- Appropriations
Member
- War Claims & Federal Land Taking
Member

Honorable Paul A. Manglona
Chairman
Committee on Local Government
Second NMI Constitutional Convention
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Honorable Manglona:

It gives a great pleasure to appear before you and your committee to testify regarding a proposal constitutional amendment to abolish the Office of the Mayor in the islands north of Saipan and replace it with an elected member of the House of Representatives which would become effective in the 1989 general election.

Mr. Chairman and members of this honorable committee, as you may know, the islands north of Saipan are no different from the other three islands entities Rota, Saipan, and Tinian - because they are being represented by an elected Mayor and representatives in the Commonwealth Legislature.

I am very supportive of retaining the Office of the Mayor for two major reasons. First the Mayor is the Chief Executive for those island entities and should have a direct authority to oversee the lives and well being of the residents. An elected Congressman who is to represent the Northern Islands may not be too effective and feasible because of transportation reasons. Just imagine how often an air or sea vessel makes a field trip to the Northern Islands in a year. I feel that it would be totally inconvenient for the representative to perform travel to and from the island periodically when sessions are called that he has to attend. If there is an elected Mayor, the Mayor could be in any off islands at any given period of time without necessarily getting worried to come to Saipan when a session is called for certain days.

Mr. Chairman, in my opinion the Office of the Mayor for the Northern Island has been proven to be satisfactory.

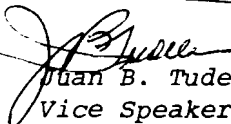
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Mr. Chairman, who knows that maybe after the year 1989 the populations of the Northern Islands might decrease significantly so that it may not even require an elected representative or even a Mayor for the islands and perhaps, by then, the islands will be incorporated with the Saipan Senatorial district where the Saipan Congressman or Mayor can take care of the residents there. Therefore, it would be fitting if the office of the Mayor for the next four to eight years is retained until there is a significant change which would later accommodate the proposed amendment.

I recommend that the candidate for Mayor shall be a resident of the Northern Islands at the time of the election and one who desires to remain a resident of the Northern Islands.

Mr. Chairman, this is all that I can say for now, and if I should be of further assistance to you and your committee, please do not hesitate to call on me and I will be glad to assist you. I remain.

Sincerely yours,



Juan B. Tudela
Vice Speaker