



Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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July 17, 1985

Mr. Jesus P. Mafnas
Vice Chairman
Committee on Governmental Institutions
Second NMI Constitutional Convention
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Vice Chairman:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Committee Recommendation No. 25 expanding the authority of the Civil Service Commission to government "agencies, instrumentalities, and public corporations" and other matters.

This proposal will allow uniform personnel standards to be implemented by the Commission for all government employees. As it stands now, without this proposal, personnel standards on hiring, termination, promotion and compensation among the branches, agencies, instrumentalities and public corporations are inconsistent and inequitable.

Our audits as well as a General Accounting Office study disclosed these inequities and inconsistencies. With this proposal, the Commission is charged with the authority and responsibility to eliminate such problems.

On the question of compromised independence on the part of public corporations should this proposal be implemented, I do not agree with that assumption. The critical matter of independence on the part of the board of directors will not be compromised by civil service employees. The essence of civil service, as I understand, is to protect both employee and employer from unconscionable personnel practices. Such protection should in no way compromise or undermine independence on the part of the board of directors. In fact, if properly implemented, civil service standards should enhance independence on the part of public corporations.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of the recommendation.

Sincerely,

Rex I. Palacios
Public Auditor, CNMI



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