

September 14, 1993

The Honorable Lorenzo I. De Leon Guerrero
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor De Leon Guerrero:

Article XVIII, Section 2(a) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the Legislature, by the affirmative vote of the majority of the members of each house, may submit to the voters the question, "shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?" This question shall be submitted to voters at a regular general election no later than ten years after the question was last submitted to the voters.

The Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature at its fourth regular session adopted House Joint Resolution No. 44 on October 4, 1983, directing the Board of Elections to submit to the voters of the Commonwealth the question. A copy of H.J.R. 44 is enclosed. The question was posed to the voters of the Commonwealth on November 6, 1983 as Referendum No. 2. A copy of the specimen of the official ballot referendum is enclosed. Majority of the voters of the Northern Marianas approved Referendum No. 2.

As you will note, the 1983 general election was the last time this question was submitted for approval by the voters. It is now ten years since that time and as a result, I introduced House Joint Resolution 8-22. The joint resolution was adopted by the House on July 9, 1993. However, during my talk this week with the Senate President regarding possible Senate action on the joint resolution, he informed me that the Senate will probably not act on the joint resolution. The President suggested that I request your action on this matter pursuant to Section 2(a) of Article XVIII of the Commonwealth Constitution which delegates this authority to the Governor in the event the Legislature fails to act.

Time is of the essence in posing the question to the voters of the Commonwealth at the upcoming general election, November 6, 1993. The Senate shows a lack of interest on its constitutional mandate and duty to adopt House Joint Resolution 8-22. It is for this reason that I urge and request your assistance in directing the Board of Election to submit to the voters at the

Section 2(a) further provide that

of voters to hold a constitutional convention.

the

about 76%

of a constitutional convention

in carrying out

to be held

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upcoming general election the question, "shall there be a constitutional
convention to propose ~~amendments~~ amendments to the Constitution?"

Sincerely,

HERMAN T. GUERRERO

Enclosures