



# Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention -2408-

## Delegate Amendment No. 009

Date: July 20, 1995

ARTICLE AND SECTION TO BE AMENDED: Art. I, Section 9


COMMITTEE ASSIGNED: Committee on Land and Personal Rights

It is proposed that the article passed on first reading be amended as follows:

### Article I

#### Section 9: Clean and Healthful Environment

Each person has the right to a clean and healthful environment as provided by law. The legislature shall enact no law infringing this right or permitting or permitting storage or dumping of any nuclear or radioactive material in the lands or waters of the Commonwealth. Any person may enforce this right against public or private parties as provided by law.

Submitted by:   
Delegate JOAQUIN D. VILLAGOMEZ

Notes: This deletes the term "public environment" and thus covers private property. This adds a qualifying phrase "as provided by law" and thus limits the right to a clean and healthful environment to the aspects of that right covered by laws on environmental quality, pollution control, conservation, and protection and enhancement of natural resources. This adds a private cause of action that may be regulated if the legislature chooses to do so. Lawsuits would be brought by any person, as a private attorney general, if the person suing thought that the government was not acting quickly enough or with the right priorities.