



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

EXECUTIVE  
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November 18, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

The legislation which you forwarded to the Congress last July with your strong recommendation for early and favorable action on the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas is considered to be in danger of being defeated or at least being delayed for a prolonged period because of lack of support in the Senate Foreign Relations and the Armed Services Committees; and because of the absence of any champion of the legislation on the Republican side in either of these two Committees.

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The markup in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is scheduled for this Thursday at 3:00 and the Armed Services Subcommittee on General Legislation has also scheduled a markup tentatively for Thursday. Friendly observers have said it is likely that the legislation will be in serious trouble in both Committees unless the Administration (White House) takes affirmative action within the next 48 hours to indicate its strong interest in the passage of the Marianas Covenant Bill.

If it fails or is delayed the consequences in the Northern Marianas could be most unfortunate in terms of our interests, our credibility and for the prospects for the successful conclusion of our political status negotiations with the entire Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Your urgent attention to this matter and assistance would be greatly appreciated. Kindest personal regards.

Respectfully,

Fred M. Zeder II  
Director of Territorial Affairs

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500



R.D.L. to Jim Cavanaugh  
C. Max Friedberg  
Date 11.18.75  
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