



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor

Saipan Mariana Islands 96950

Cable Address
Gov NMI Saip

September 26, 1980

The Honorable J. Farrow
Member of the House of
Representatives
U.S. Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Farrow:

I am writing this to seek your support in reinstating Section 301 of H.B. 7330 which would provide an authorization of \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 1981 and thereafter for the rehabilitation, upgrading and construction of public facilities in the Northern Marianas. The bill is now before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Commonwealth urgently needs this authorization of funding for the rehabilitation and improvement of our commercial port facilities.

I became aware from a recent article in the Pacific Daily News that the authorization for the \$10 million was being deleted from H.B. 7330 in abeyance of a study to be conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior which would assess the need for the port developments in the Northern Marianas.

The need and urgency for rehabilitating the port facilities on Saipan was documented in several authoritative, professional reports conducted in recent years in the Northern Marianas. The Commonwealth Physical Master Plan prepared by the Office of Transition Studies and Planning (OTSP) in 1977 reported that the existing port facilities on Saipan have badly deteriorated and the port structure is at verge of collapsing which poses potential safety hazards to lives and property. Shipments of surface cargoes and passengers traffic into Saipan would be severely affected if the structure falls apart. These documentations were provided U.S. Congressional Committees and U.S. Department of the Interior during our appearances in Washington, D.C., for the budget hearings. Recently, we furnished the Assistant Secretary for International and Territorial Affairs a copy of the recently completed revision of the Commonwealth's Socio-economic Development Plan. The update, again, reiterates the need for immediate consideration in rehabilitating the port facilities in the Northern Marianas, especially the Saipan port for reasons stated above. The Plan also reported the progress of CIP projects funded by the Covenant moneys and demonstrated that even if we were to commit all CIP fundings for the rehabilitation of the port and harbor facilities in the Northern Marianas, it would not be possible for the Commonwealth to defray the cost of this magnitude for this project in a short period and would severely set the Commonwealth back in its efforts of putting in place other vitally needed physical infrastructure that have been planned for up to FY 1987.

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Because of this constraint and funding limitations, we have planned anxiously for the support of the U.S. Congress of this project. The commercial port facilities on Saipan and other principal islands in the Northern Marianas are economically strategic to the growth of the Commonwealth, and much of our development efforts depend on their viability and safety. And the project of this magnitude would involve outlays beyond the financial reach of the Commonwealth. For several years, we have been exploring funding assistance to undertake this project from various Federal agencies, but our strides were of no avail. These are simply no Federal assistance grants available from which we could seek assistance short of going to U.S. Congress.

To demonstrate the fact that we have indeed been considering seriously the urgency of the port facilities improvement on Saipan, we have included in our FY 1980 CIP budgets more than \$300 thousands for the architectural and engineering design of the project. We shall be letting an A&E contract in next several weeks for this project and expect to have the design work completed in FY 1981.

We hope that you will assist us in having Section 301 of H.B. 7330 restored for the authorization of \$10.0 million for the virtually urgent and needed facilities discussed above. The timing of this authorization is critical to our plan in justifying the budget appropriation of this amount before U.S. Congress in FY 1982, to be supported by the results of the A&E work which we will be undertaking in FY 1981 as mentioned above.

I am looking forward to your support.

Hafa Adai,

for
CARLOS S. CAMACHO
Governor

