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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1980

My dear Governor Camacho:

This is in reply to your letter of September 26 regarding Administration support for Section 301 of H.R. 7330.

As you know, the measure passed the House of Representatives without benefit of Administration testimony. I know that you are also aware of the Interior Department's testimony on the issue when the matter was considered by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Rather than accept the \$10 million authorization passed by the House, the Senate committee amended the section requiring the Secretary of the Interior to submit to it a report on the existing port facilities; the need for repair, improvement or replacement with cost estimates; and the appropriate Federal assistance for such work. The report is to be submitted in time for consideration for inclusion of any required assistance in the FY 1982 budget.

The Senate committee took this action, according to its report, because it felt that there was inadequate justification at this point for the authorization voted by the House. If the Senate committee amendment is adopted by the full Senate, as we anticipate, then the disparity between the positions of the two Houses will have to be ironed out in formal or informal conference on H.R. 7330 before final passage of the bill and before further executive action is required. If these steps are completed in this Congress, the Administration will take appropriate action on the measure.

Let me note in closing that it was a pleasure to meet with you during the recent organizational meeting of the Pacific Basin Development Conference.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Farrow  
Senior Adviser  
Domestic Policy Staff

The Honorable Carlos S. Camacho  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

*Sorry I won't be able to join you in P.N.B. J.*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Cable Address  
Gov N M I Saipan

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.

The Honorable J. Farrow  
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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.

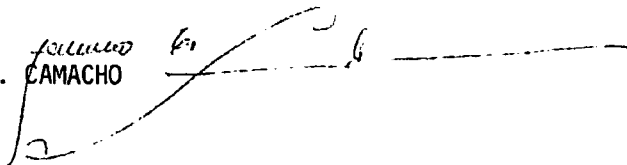
We hope that you will assist us in having Section 301 of H.B. 7330 restored for the authorization of \$10.0 million for the virtually urgent and needed facilities discussed above. The timing of this authorization is critical to our plan in justifying the budget appropriation of this amount before U.S. 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.  
Governor

*followed by*  
CAMACHO

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Camacho', written over a horizontal line.