



Association of Pacific Basin Executives

PRESENTATION

by

Governor CARLOS S. CAMACHO

ENERGY ISSUES

Two great concerns to CNMI and, I assume, to all the U.S. island territories have been presented to the members of this forum, and have been addressed to Mr. Wallace Green of the Department of the Interior, and other interested officials in Washington.

The first issue is the need for the establishment of a Territorial Energy Policy. The CNMI position paper on the National Energy Policy proposed by the National Governors' Association shows that the needs of the U.S. mainland and the U.S. island territories are completely different. It is therefore, a matter of extreme urgency that we have our own Territorial Energy Policy, so that we can claim our fair share of the billions of dollars from the Windfall Profits Tax without any delay.

I strongly recommend that all our energy officials and the experts from the Federal agencies get together as soon as possible to work on the Territorial Energy Policy. We do not want any more surveys or reports on our energy problems or resources, as we already know what we have and what we want. We want positive action now to make our islands energy independent through the development of our abundant and renewable resources. I propose a unified effort to formulate such a Territorial Policy to be sent to the DOI, DOE, Congress and President.

The second issue is the proposed Energy Management Partnership Act (EMPA), which still limits the purchase of equipment and hardware to 20%. This has prevented us, under the existing energy laws, from demonstrating energy conservation measures and utilizing our local energy resources in our small islands.

It is important that such a clause be removed from EMPA, or made more flexible in the case of island territories. Moreover, until EMPA becomes law, we should explore the possibility of waiving this clause under the Territorial Omnibus Act, as many islands are having difficulty with their Energy Extension Services program because up to 80% of the limited funds have been earmarked for demonstration purposes.

I sincerely hope that you will all support these two issues, and that we can get some quick and appropriate action from Washington soon, as it is a question of survival for our island communities.

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