

January 28, 1986

Dear Stan:

On Tuesday, January 14, 1986 I was pleased to sign into law House Joint Resolution 187, the Compact of Free Association.

After 14 long years of negotiation, H.J. Res. 187 provides the basis for the termination of the trusteeship agreement begun in 1947 with the United Nations Security Council. Its passage helps bring about a new relationship between the United States and the two largest components of the trust territory of the Pacific Islands -- the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

This major foreign policy achievement secures long-term use of the Kwajalein Missile Range for this country, while denying strategic access to the region by all others, including the Soviet Union. At the same time, it creates a free association political relationship that is unique in our history and a model for others.

The dedicated effort on this issue by you and other staff members was invaluable to its future success. I wish to extend to you my thanks and appreciation for all your hard work in helping to obtain congressional passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Charles Stanley Sloss
Majority Counsel
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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