



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

2433 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20008

Tel. # (202) 234-5414 * Fax # (202) 232-3236 * E-mail: info@rmicmbassyus.org

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

On behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your thoughtful inclusion of the Freely Associated States (FAS) in the Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act (S. 745).

The proposal's expansion of broadband access in unserved areas and areas with low-tier or mid-tier service (Section 732) provides \$100 million to be evenly divided among the three Freely Associated States (Marshall Islands, Palau, Federated State of Micronesia) and four smallest U.S. territories, a sum of almost \$14.3 million for each entity.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is proud of our unique relationship with the United States, and we appreciate the recognition of that relationship in your legislative proposal.

The U.S.-RMI Compact of Free Association grants the U.S. full military control over RMI water, air and land, and area roughly the size of Texas that includes the preeminent U.S. Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Test Site on our Kwajalein Atoll. The Compact also includes a U.S. role in providing communications assistance to the RMI (Section 131). Article XI of our Federal Programs and Services subsidiary agreement "recognize[es]the progressive development of telecommunications infrastructure for [the U.S.-RMI] mutual benefit and the importance of incorporating advances in technology in this development...including broad band [sic]." The pandemic has enhanced awareness of how critical broadband infrastructure is to everyday living, and the RMI's inclusion in your proposal is timely and appreciated.

I thank you again for your leadership as well as your recognition of our strong diplomatic ties and the special and unique U.S.-RMI relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald M. Zackios'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'G' and a horizontal line across the middle.

Gerald M. Zackios
Ambassador