



February 8, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We write as the presidents of the three nations freely associated with the United States regarding the need for the legislation that would strengthen our associations and enable them to endure. As you know, the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023 has been cleared on a bipartisan basis by all congressional committees of jurisdiction.

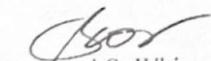
Our free associations effectively expand the United States for defense purposes to cover an expanse of the Pacific larger than the 48 contiguous United States, stretching from west of Hawaii to the Philippines and Indonesia. Our partnerships also enable the U.S. to base missiles and its earliest warning radars trained on Asia in Palau and a facility that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff says is the world's premier range for ICBM testing and military space operations in the Marshall Islands. They also make it possible for the U.S. to conduct military exercises in the Federated States of Micronesia.

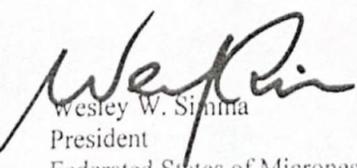
The legislation was developed through a process that President Trump personally initiated in a meeting with the presidents of our nations. Its provisions are vital to our nations and to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

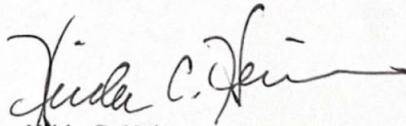
The agreements that this legislation would approve were to take effect last fall. Although we understand the delay in the legislation's approval, it has generated uncertainty among our peoples. As much as they identify with and appreciate the United States, which formerly governed our islands, this has resulted in undesirable opportunities for economic exploitation by competitive political actors active in the Pacific.

We are very pleased by the tremendous bipartisan committee efforts on the legislation to date and cannot overstate the importance to all of our nations of final approval by the U.S. Congress.

In solidarity with the United States, we are,


Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.
President
Republic of Palau


Wesley W. Siimma
President
Federated States of Micronesia


Aida C. Heine
President
Republic of the Marshall Islands

cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
Chairman
Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States
and the Chinese Communist Party
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Harriett Hageman
Chair
Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Young Kim
Chair
Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific
and Co-Chair, Pacific Islands Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Co-Chair
Committee on Natural Resources Committee Indo-Pacific Task Force
and Pacific Islands Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Ann Wagner
Co-Chair
Pacific Islands Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Neal Dunn
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tim Burchett
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Michelle Steel
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
U.S. House of Representatives