



February 6, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice-Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chair Murray, and Vice Chair Collins:

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 U.S. congressional committees of jurisdiction and was proposed to be added to the emergency supplemental appropriations legislation being discussed in the Senate.


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.

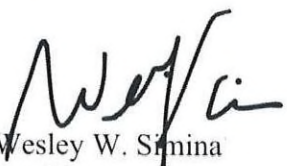
The legislation was developed through a process that President Trump personally initiated in a meeting with the presidents of our nations. Its provisions are vital to our nations and to a free and open Indo-Pacific.


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 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. Simina  
President  
Federated States of Micronesia

  
Hilda C. Heine  
President  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States of America

The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate

The Honorable James E. Risch  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate

The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
United States Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate

The Honorable Rick Scott  
United States Senate

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitt Romney  
United States Senate

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senate

The Honorable Bill Hagerty  
United States Senate

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
United States Senate

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
United States Senate

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
United States Senate