



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.

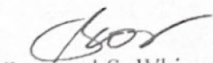
Our free associations effectively expand the United States for defense purposes to cover an expanse of the Pacific larger than the 48 contiguous United States, stretching from west of Hawaii to the Philippines and Indonesia. Our partnerships also enable the U.S. to base missiles and its earliest warning 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.

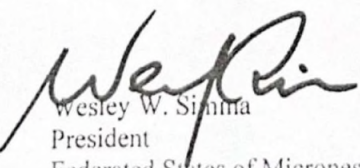
The legislation was developed through a process that President Trump personally initiated in a meeting with the presidents of our nations. Its provisions are vital to our nations and to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

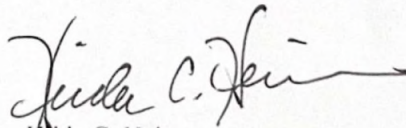
The agreements that this legislation would approve were to take effect last fall. Although we understand the delay in the legislation's approval, it has generated uncertainty among our peoples. As much as they identify with and appreciate the United States, which formerly governed our islands, this has 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. Simma  
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