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SURANGEL WHIPPS, JR.

*President*

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The Honorable Brian Mast  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mast:

Alii from Palau – and congratulations on your selection as Chairman of the Select Committee!

I am especially pleased because of your support for the Compact of Free Association Act of 2024. It greatly strengthened and extended the relationship between the United States and Palau, approving and adding to an Agreement reached in negotiations initiated by President Trump.

The U.S. has no closer relationship than this association. We let the U.S. armed forces use the land, waters, and airspace they need in an EEZ approaching Alaska in size adjacent to Asia. This is why a top U.S. military commander termed Palau the westernmost “part of the homeland.”

I have made it possible for the U.S. military to install radar that can “see” the PRC and North Korea and test missiles from here, extend a vital airport runway on what was private land, and improve a critical seaport. My Administration also regularly votes with the U.S. internationally.

The CCP dictatorship has tried to shift Palau’s alliances – which include Taiwan – by blocking tourist visits (tourism is our biggest industry), offering large business investments and payments to the Government, and deals (some sham) with influential figures. It has influenced some here but not me. So, CCP did everything it could to try to prevent my re-election last November.

I encourage you and your colleagues to visit Palau and learn more about combatting the CCP threat here, and hope that we can meet when I am in Washington.

Palau could not be the nation it is – and the better nation it will be – without the U.S. I am proud that we can help the U.S. diplomatically as well as militarily for the security and economies of our both of our nations and a free and open Pacific. The U.S. can count on my collaboration.

Sincerely,

Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau

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Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*