



REPUBLIC OF PALAU  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SURANGEL WHIPPS, JR.  
*President*

P.O. Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940  
Tel. (680) 767-2403/2828  
Fax. (680) 767-2424/1662  
Email: [president@palaupresident.info](mailto:president@palaupresident.info)

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The Honorable Mitt Romney  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Romney:

Thank you, again, for our meeting. I am writing to seek your support of the amendment to the national security supplemental appropriations bill sponsored by Ranking Members Risch, Barrasso, and Wicker, among others, needed to cement a strengthened free association between Palau and the U.S. and also enable the associations with the Marshall Islands and Micronesia to endure. It has been cleared by all congressional committees of jurisdiction.

Together our islands give the U.S. strategic control of the sea and air between Hawaii and Asia larger in area than the 48 contiguous United States – including shipping lanes that the PRC covets – effectively extending the U.S. border for military purposes to Asia. A U.S. military expert testified that it would cost \$100 billion to replace this militarily.


In the case of Palau, we also let the U.S. military have land it needs for defense. It has stationed missiles and its earliest warning radars trained on Asia here. The U.S. has no closer relationship with any other nation, which is why a top commander said that Palau is “part of the homeland.” He also said that our islands have “never been more vital strategically.”

The legislation’s Agreement, initiated by President Trump, was to take effect last October 1<sup>st</sup>. Every day it is not approved plays into the hands of the CCP and the leaders here (some of whom have done ‘business’ with the PRC) who want to accept its seemingly attractive economic offers – at the cost of shifting alliances, beginning with sacrificing Taiwan.

The PRC has already offered to “fill every hotel room” in our tourism-based private sector – “and more, if more are built” – and \$20 million a year for two acres for a ‘call center.’

The legislation is critical for both of our democracies and a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Sincerely,

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