

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14-29

RE: C.R. NO. 14-11/WM

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF
EPEL ILON

MAY 23, 2005

The Honorable Peter M. Christian
Speaker, Fourteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Regular Session, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred C.R. No. 14-11, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. EPEL ILON TO
BE THE HEAD (DIRECTOR) OF THE OFFICE OF COMPACT
MANAGEMENT.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

Your committee is very aware of the qualifications and accomplishments of Mr. Ilon. Mr. Ilon has been involved in various capacities with the National Government and the members of your committee feel that they have become very familiar with the excellent qualities of Mr. Ilon. Nonetheless, the Committee met with Mr. Ilon and Ambassador Marehalau on May 23, 2005 to discuss the nomination.

Most recently, Mr. Ilon has been working aside the National Government in the role of a consultant. In that capacity he has had several significant achievements for the Federated States of Micronesia, including acting as Secretary during the Third FSM Constitutional Convention, assembling the Health Sector Plan under the Compact, overseeing the implementation of that Plan in the States and drafting a Manual of Foreign Affairs Procedures. Mr. Ilon has also dedicated nearly twenty years to public service in the Department of External Affairs culminating in his service as the Secretary of the Department.

Mr. Ilon's extensive experiences with foreign affairs, his recent experiences with the implementation of the Compact and his experience managing people make Mr. Ilon an excellent choice as Head of the Office of Compact Management.

At the committee meeting, Mr. Ilon emphasized that he is ready to

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devote the time and able to handle the pressures inherent to the position. He stated that he wants to serve as the Head of the Office of Compact Management because he is a proud but concerned citizen who understands the importance of the Compact to the daily lives of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia and that he looks forward to tackling the challenges the position affords. He recognizes the difficulty of receiving direction from the Compact Management Board and the President but he wants to see how this relationship plays out before recommending changes. He stressed that he wants to study the law, operate within it and is not afraid to suggest changes if he feels things are not working as planned. He views the role of the Office of Compact Management as one of promoting cooperation, compromise and unity among the various levels of government and the departments and agencies within each of the levels and as providing technical assistance and capability for the gathering and sharing of information between them. At JEMCO meetings, he wants to improve the confidence of the United States' representatives in the operations of the governments of the nation, follow the law and the terms of the Compact while not giving up the sovereignty of the nation. In regards to the problems facing Chuuk, he insisted on emphasizing the positive and working with the new administration to improve their ability to implement the provisions of the Compact and not just criticize them for the challenges they face. Ambassador Marehalau spoke highly in favor of the nominee. Mr. Ilon also acknowledged the need to involve the Embassy to the United States in the process of managing the Compact. Your committee was extremely pleased with the responses of Mr. Ilon.

Your Committee on Ways and Means is, therefore, in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 14-11, and recommends its adoption.

W&M

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

/s/ Roosevelt D. Kansou
Roosevelt D. Kansou, vice
chairman

Peter M. Christian

Dohsis Halbert

/s/ Manny Mori
Manny Mori

Claude H. Phillip

/s/ Simiram Sipenuk
Simiram Sipenuk