OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE
SENATOR RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
SIKRITÅRIAN LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN • I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY • 34TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

May 25, 2017

Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz
MAY 25 2017
Time: 12:51 [ ] AM [ ] PM File No. 34481
Received By
GL# 34-17-565

MEMORANDUM

TO: Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

FROM: Legislative Secretary Régine Biscoe Lee

SUBJECT: **Letter from Governor Calvo regarding Bill No. 1 (1-S)**

Håfa Adai! Transmitted herewith is a letter from Governor Calvo regarding *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s vote during special session for Bill No. 1(1-S).

Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

RC
2017 MAY 25 PM 2:16

Chairperson, Committee on Innovation and Economic, Workforce, and Youth Development
Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 | senatorbiscoelee@guamlegislature.org

0565

EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

May 25, 2017

Speaker Benjamin

Honorable Regine Biscoe Lee
Legislative Secretary, I Mina Trentai Kuattro na Liheslaturan Guahan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Time 2:57 PM
Received By

34-48/

Dear Madam Secretary,

It has been 16 days since the Legislature voted on Bill No. 1 (1-S) in the special session I convened for that purpose. I understand from coverage of the special session that 13 senators were present and voting. Seven senators voted in the affirmative, and six voted against the quicker payment of tax refunds. Customarily, the Legislative Secretary, on behalf of the Legislature, presents legislation duly passed to I Maga Lahi within days, if not hours, of passage and engrossment. The presentment of bills is a legislative duty prescribed in federal law.

No local statute or rule may supercede such authority.

§1423b the Organic Act, vesting the legislative authority of the territory in the Legislature, provides clear and explicit language to enumerate the number of votes needed, when a quorum is present, to pass a bill before presentment to I Maga Lahi. The relevant portion of §1423b states, in part:

> "[The Legislature] shall choose from its members its own officers, determine its rules and procedure, ***not inconsistent with this chapter***, and keep a journal. The quorum of the legislature shall consist of a simple majority of its members. No bill shall become a law unless it shall have been passed at a meeting, at which a quorum was present, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting, which vote shall be by yeas and nays."

Behind this legislation are the real lives of thousands of our people waiting for money that is theirs. Please do not let them wait any further. Please do your duty, present that bill to me. I will sign it, and our people, after more than two decades, will finally be able to get their money back as intended under the tax code. You had the opportunity to be part of the solution, but instead you and a minority of senators present and voting stood in its way. You now have a duty to move this solution to my desk for immediate signature.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

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