House of Representatives

20th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Send Correspondence to:
The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twentieth Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Legislature
P.O. Box 500586
Saipan, MP 96950

August 14, 2018

GL# 34-18-2238

Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

AUG 22 2018
Time: 11:31 AM / PM File No. 34-3009
Received By

The Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Speaker
Office of the Speaker
I Mina'trentai Kuattro na
Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building – 163
Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

2018 AUG 22 PM 12:20

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith a certified copy of H. J. R. No. 20-12, HD1, entitled: **"A House Joint Resolution to respectfully urge the *Mina'trentai Kuattro Nå Liheslaturan Guåhan* to reject Bill No. 257-34."**, which was duly adopted by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Enclosure

2238

Rep. Rafael S. Demapan, Speaker
Rep. Francisco C. Aguon
Rep. Ivan A. Blanco
Rep. Angel A. Demapan
Rep. Edwin K. Propst

Rep. Janet U. Maratita, Vice Speaker
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz
Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero
Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.

Rep. Glenn L. Maratita , Floor Leader
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Rep. Alice S. Igitol
Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez, Minority Leader
Rep. Donald C. Barcinas
Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero
Rep. Jose I. Itibus
Rep. Vinnie F. Sablan

Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 30, 2018

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself,* Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinnie F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following House Joint Resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 20-12, HD1

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION TO RESPECTFULLY URGE THE MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN TO REJECT BILL NO. 257-34.

Referred to the House Committee: None
Standing Committee Report: None
ADOPTED BY THE **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES** ON **JULY 30, 2018;**
with amendments in the form of H. J. R. No. 20-12, HD1 and transmitted to the Senate.

Referred to the Senate Committee: None
Standing Committee Report: None
ADOPTED BY THE **SENATE** ON **AUGUST 3, 2018;**
without amendments and returned to the House of Representatives.

H. J. R. NO. 20-12, HD1 WAS DULY ADOPTED BY THE 20TH CNMI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING ITS FIRST DAY, SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION ON JULY 30, 2018.

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DAY, SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 30, 2018

H. J. R. 20-12, HD1

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

TO RESPECTFULLY URGE THE MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN TO REJECT BILL NO. 257-34.

WHEREAS, with the current global economic decline, it is comprehensible for governments to look into other avenues to generate more revenue for their services and programs; and

WHEREAS, such proposed avenues however should consider its economic effect on consumers and the neighboring islands as well; and

WHEREAS, the island of Guam currently serves as a major transshipment center for the Micronesian region, including the redistribution of fuel; and

WHEREAS, because of the economic benefits derived from such transshipment and redistribution services, incentives are granted by the government of Guam to transshipment companies, such as the current fuel tax exemption; and

WHEREAS, as introduced in the Mina'trentai Kuattro Na Liheslaturan Guahan, Bill No. 257-34 proposes to remove the fuel tax exemption in order to generate revenue to fund environmental protection efforts on the island of Guam; and

WHEREAS, although applying the fuel tax to oil companies that utilize Guam as its transshipment center will generate additional funds for the island of Guam, other islands such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia,

Republic of Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, particularly Rota and Tinian, will be detrimentally affected by the resulting increased cost of fuel; and

WHEREAS, throughout these unpredictable economic conditions, it is extremely imperative that the Micronesian Islands come together in the spirit of unity in order to promote stronger and better economic ties amongst ourselves even in times when our region's economy is threatened; and

WHEREAS, that the Honorable Representatives of the 17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature adopted House Resolution No. 17-18, which respectfully urges the members of the Mina'trenta na Liheslaturan Guahan to reject Bill No. 429-30, a bill that proposes the same exact measures as 257-34; and

WHEREAS, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), with all its members as co-sponsors, has recently introduced and adopted APIL Resolution No. 37-GA-20, which also opposes the enactment of Bill No. 257-34, the resolution was duly adopted by the full membership of APIL; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the House respectfully urges the Mina'trentai Kuattro Na Liheslaturan Guahan to reject Bill No. 257-34 as it will detrimentally affect its neighboring islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify, and the House Clerk and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Speaker, I Mina'trentai Kuattro Na Liheslaturan Guahan; the Honorable Eddie B. Calvo, Governor of Guahan; the Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and to the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Senate President, Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Duly adopted by the House of Representatives on July 30, 2018 and by the Senate on August 3, 2018.

Certified by:

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan
House of Representatives

President Arnold I. Palacios
The Senate

Attested to by:

Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Justo S. Quitugua
Senate Legislative Secretary