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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–9900

August 28, 2019

35GL-19-0964

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AUG 30 2019
Time 11:00 ( )AM (✓)PM
Received By:

The Honorable Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Speaker
I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, GU 96910

Håfa Adai, Speaker Barnes,

Thank you for your follow up letter regarding our Congressional efforts to address the Federal Ban of Cockfighting in Guam. The Congressional Research Service has opined that the provisions enacted through the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, widely known as the 2018 Farm Bill, that makes unlawful the exhibition, sponsoring, and attending of an animal fighting venture as well as the selling, purchasing, transporting, training, delivering, and receiving of a live bird in interstate or foreign commerce to participate in an animal fighting venture supersedes and invalidates any and all State, local, or municipal legislation or ordinance in direct and irreconcilable conflict with the Federal provisions.

The Congressional Research Service further opined that any prior Federal law concerning the above specified issues, including any provisions that would have been enacted into the Organic Act of Guam, would be further replaced and preempted by the relevant provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill. Unfortunately, the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution prohibits any past, or future, legislation the Guam Legislature enacted regarding the issuance or maintenance of licenses for cockfighting in Guam.

I am dedicated to finding ways to address this very issue that is of concern to many of our constituents. As you noted in your letter, I have co-authored H.R. 1189, which seeks to exempt the non-continental United States territories from the pertinent provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill. I will work with my colleagues in Congress to move H.R. 1189 through the process and ask for your continued support on the matter. In the meantime, I also respectfully request an update on the work you are doing on this matter, not only to support my work, but to showcase your independent work as well that I know our people are expecting from their local government. *Si Yu'us Ma'åse'*.

Sincerely,

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress

2019 AUG 30 AM 11:46

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