A RESOLUTION

Declaring the importance of Information and Communications Technology and broadband telecommunications to the economic and social development of the Federated States of Micronesia and designating broadband submarine fiber optics capacity as critical infrastructure for the Federated States of Micronesia.

1. WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia (“FSM”) embraces and supports the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by 189 countries of the United Nations in 2000; and

2. WHEREAS, the FSM understands the critical importance of Information and Communication Technology (“ICT”) to achieve the MDGs and to further the social and economic development of the country; and

3. WHEREAS, the FSM acknowledges that the countries of the world are seeking to implement broadband telecommunications capacity and policy and regulatory reform as part of their ICT development strategy; and

4. WHEREAS, the FSM understands how broadband telecommunications and submarine fiber capacity are important to “e-” business, government, economic development, education, and health care; and

5. WHEREAS, the FSM seeks to ensure that all states and peoples of the FSM have access to broadband telecommunication services and capacity in order to lessen the inequities of the digital divide both internationally and nationally; and

6. WHEREAS, the FSM is aware that the Pacific Islands of Palau, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and others have introduced competition and liberalization of telecommunications; and
WHEREAS, the FSM has been cognizant of the benefits of competition in the U.S. territories of American Samoa and Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; and

WHEREAS, broadband telecommunications capacity through submarine fiber optics is a critical infrastructure for the Federated States of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, Congress endorses the Directive of the President and the efforts of the Departments of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure and Foreign Affairs to develop a plan for broadband submarine fiber optics capacity as priority infrastructure to interconnect all states of the FSM; and

WHEREAS, that Congress encourages the Executive Branch of the National Government to develop plans, solicit financial assistance, and undertake all appropriate actions to ensure that all states have access to broadband and SFOC capacity; and

WHEREAS, that the Executive Branch of the National Government prepares and submits a National ICT Plan for the Federated States of Micronesia by the end of Calendar Year 2008 that addresses the policy, regulatory, technology, and management of telecommunications and ICT for government and public services; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fifteenth Congress urges the President to direct the appropriate authority at the National Government to develop, study, plan, and come up with recommendations to transform telecommunications and ICT to be a
vibrant infrastructure for the economic and social development of the FSM; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Governors of each of the State.

Date: 3/31/08

Introduced by: /s/ Fredrico O. Primo

Fredrico O. Primo

/s/ Moses A. Nelson

Moses A. Nelson