February 21, 2018

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker
FSM Congress
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Dear Speaker Simina:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of Congressional Resolution No. 20-29, C.D.1, which was adopted by the Twentieth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Third Regular Session, 2018.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Liwiana Ramon Ioanis
Chief Clerk
Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

Enclosures
A RESOLUTION

RATIFYING THE 2001 UNESCO CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE.

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR: FLORENCIO S. HARPER (BY REQUEST)
DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 15, 2018

[Signature]
Liwiana Ramon Iomnis
Chief Clerk, FSM Congress

1. WHEREAS, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UNESCO) was adopted on November 02, 2001, by the member states of UNESCO to better protect their submerged cultural heritage; and

2. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Convention is to preserve sites in situ, to stop commercial exploitation and illicit trafficking or unethical recovery of underwater cultural heritage of sites and artifacts, and to ensure that where excavation is permitted, it is carried out in accordance with international best practice; and

3. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Convention is consistent with how sites in the Federated States of Micronesia and particularly the World War II sites or shipwrecks in Chuuk should be managed, given dive tourism is an important industry in the economy of the region; and

4. WHEREAS, the World War II sites or shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon need assistance in managing these internationally significant sites as the current management is ineffective and the sites continue to suffer and threaten the livelihood of the people of Chuuk with serious and hazardous environmental impacts of imminent oil leakage; and
WHEREAS, ratification of the Convention is beneficial to the
Federated States of Micronesia because of the assurance it accords
that technical and funding assistance will be accessible and
enabled from UNESCO and the international community to address the
urgent and serious risks related to environmental hazards
eemanating from the shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Twentieth Congress of the Federated
States of Micronesia, Third Regular Session, 2018, that Congress
hereby ratifies of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of
the Underwater Cultural Heritage; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States
of Micronesia, and the Secretary of the FSM Department of Foreign
Affairs, for the earliest deposit of the required instrument of
ratification with the Director-General of UNESCO.

ADOPTED: February 15, 2018

Wesley W. Simina
Speaker
FSM Congress

ATTEST:

Liwiana Ramon Ioanis
Chief Clerk
FSM Congress

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