

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-41

RE: C.R. NO. 21-108/W&M

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND  
ADMINISTRATION, EUGENE AMOR, TO SERVE AS A  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF  
MICRONESIA GOVERNMENT TO THE JOINT TRUST FUND  
COMMITTEE.

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twenty-First Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Third Regular Session, 2020

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways & Means, to which was referred  
Congressional Resolution No. 21-108, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF SECRETARY  
EUGENE AMOR TO SERVE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FSM  
GOVERNMENT TO THE JOINT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in  
its title.

Secretary Eugene Amor has been nominated by the President  
of the Federated States of Micronesia to be a  
Representative of the FSM Government to the Joint Trust  
Fund Committee. Article X, section 2(d) of the  
Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia and  
title 2, section 207 of the Code of the Federated States of  
Micronesia (Annotated), provides that this nomination is

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subject to the advice and consent of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Presidential Communication No. 21-194 accompanied C.R. No. 21-108 and included Secretary Amor's curriculum vitae. After graduating from Xavier High School in Weno, Chuuk, Secretary Amor attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis Maryland, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. He has completed additional graduate level courses in Public Policy, Microeconomics, and Program Management at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Your Committee finds Secretary Amor's impressive educational achievements relevant and suitable for a Representative of the FSM Government on the Joint Trust Fund Committee.

Secretary Amor is an experienced economist and has served in various prestigious roles at the FSM National Government and internationally. His previous experience includes: Manager at the Tax Administration Division at FSM Social Security Administration; Program Manager for FSM, RMI, and Palau for the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia; Chief Economist at the FSM National Government Office of Statistics, Budget, Overseas Development and Compact Management; Assistance Secretary of Finance for Budget and Economic Management at the FSM National Government Department of Finance; Economic Advisor to the Executive Director from Asia Pacific Region at the International Monetary Fund; and most recently he is serving as the Secretary of Finance and Administration for the Federated States of Micronesia. Your Committee finds Secretary Amor's notable professional experiences appropriate and fitting for the position to which he has been nominated.

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Your Committee on Ways and Means has reviewed C.R. No. 21-108 and P.C. No. 21-194 and finds that Secretary Amor has outstanding credentials, which qualify him for this appointment.

PUBLIC HEARING

Your Committee held a hearing on February 07, 2020, on the nomination of Secretary Amor to be a Representative for the FSM on the Joint Trust Fund Committee. Witnesses at the hearing included the nominee Secretary of Finance and Administration Eugene Amor; Rob Solomon, Department of Finance and Administration; Andrew Haigh, Department of Finance and Administration; Erick Paul, Department of Finance and Administration; Jeffery Tilfas, Department of Justice.

Chairman Figir opened the hearing by thanking the witness and committee members for attending. He then asked the nominee, Secretary Amor to give his opening remarks. Secretary Amor also thanked all the attendees for being present. He stated that it was an honor to be nominated for to take on this role on behalf of the government and will do his best to represent the FSM in that capacity. He acknowledged the wealth of expertise in finance that is available in the FSM and pledged to leverage that expertise for the best of the Trust Fund.

Chairman Figir asked if any of the witnesses would like to testify on behalf or against the nominee. Rob Solomon, Department of Finance and Administration, testified that he has long history working with Secretary Amor in the finance sector and believes that Secretary Amor has the capacity to serve the people in this role. Erick Paul, Department of

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Finance and Administration, also testified that he was fully in support of Secretary Amor and asked that he be confirmed to serve as a Representative for the FSM to the Joint Trust Fund Committee.

Chairman Figir opened the floor to Members of your Committee for questions. Chairman Romolow stated his support of the nominee and noted that no one from the President's Office was in attendance nor any member of the Pohnpei delegation (Vice Speaker Edmond Moses arrived to the hearing shortly after the floor was opened to members).

Chairman Urusemal echoed Chairman Romolow's concerns over the absence of certain departments and delegations, then asked the nominee how many other boards, public or private, that he is sitting on. Secretary Amor stated that he is currently serving on the FSM Trust Fund board and the Secretary of Finance, by default, serves on the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Asia Development Bank boards.

Chairman Urusemal expressed concern that sitting on too many boards could take time away from the Secretary's primary role in the Department of Finance and Administration. Secretary Amor clarified that the World Bank and IMF meetings are bi-annual and require only a few days away from the office. He stated the Asian Development Bank meetings are annual and not a significant time commitment. He stated that he envisioned his role on the Joint Trust Fund Committee to be similar to his role on the FSM Trust Fund therefore, it will not hinder from his ability to lead the Department of Finance and Administration.

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Chairman Urusemal asked the nominee that if he was asked to advance the idea about moving funds from the FSM Trust Fund to the Joint Trust Fund, what his position would be. Secretary Amor stated that the FSM Trust Fund is the trust fund that we (the FSM) want to grow, it is the one that we control. He stated that he does not support a merger of the two funds nor moving funds from the FSM Trust Fund to the Joint Trust Fund.

Senator Aren Palik addressed the nominee in regards to some specifics of the Joint Trust Fund, such as the status of the trust fund advisor, fees, possibility of switching advisors, who he believes has ownership of the Joint Trust Fund, and other matters. Secretary Amor, stated that the questions posed were very important and if his nomination is conformed then he will look into these matters. He stated that he appreciates the insight that Senator Palik provided and appreciates his concern. Senator Palik stated that he supports the nominee and wished him luck.

Chairman Figir concluded the meeting and stated that if Secretary Amor is confirmed, he wishes him luck.

#### CONCLUSION

Upon review of the nominee, his qualifications, and the testimony at the public hearing, your Committee is satisfied that the nominee is fit for service as a Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia Government on the Joint Trust Fund Committee.

Therefore, your Committee on Ways and Means recommends Mr. Eugene Amor be confirmed to serve as a Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia Government on the Joint Trust Fund Committee. Your Committee on Ways and Means is

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in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 21-108  
and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

/s/ Dion G. Neth  
Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Victor V. Gouland  
Victor V. Gouland, member

Robson U. Romolow, member

/s/ Ferny S. Perman  
Ferny S. Perman, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

/s/ Palikoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, member