A RESOLUTION

Ratifying the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

- 1 WHEREAS, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater
- 2 Cultural Heritage (UNESCO) was adopted on November 02, 2001, by
- 3 the member states of UNESCO to better protect their submerged
- 4 cultural heritage; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Convention is to preserve sites
- 6 in situ, to stop commercial exploitation and illicit trafficking
- 7 or unethical recovery of underwater cultural heritage of sites and
- 8 artifacts, and to ensure that where excavation is permitted, it is
- 9 carried out in accordance with international best practice; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Convention is consistent with how
- 11 sites in the Federated States of Micronesia and particularly the
- 12 World War II sites or shipwrecks in Chuuk should be managed, given
- 13 dive tourism is an important industry in the economy of the
- 14 region; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the World War II sites or shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon
- 16 need assistance in managing these internationally significant
- 17 sites as the current management is ineffective and the sites
- 18 continue to suffer and threaten the livelihood of the people of
- 19 Chuuk with serious and hazardous environmental impacts of imminent
- 20 oil leakage; and

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1	WHEREAS, ratification of the Convention is beneficial to the
2	Federated States of Micronesia because of the assurance it accords
3	that technical and funding assistance will be accessible and
4	enabled from UNESCO and the international community to address the
5	urgent and serious risks related to environmental hazards
6	emanating from the shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon; now, therefore,
7	BE IT RESOLVED by the Twentieth Congress of the Federated
8	States of Micronesia, Second Regular Session, 2017, that Congress
9	hereby ratifies of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of
10	the Underwater Cultural Heritage; and
11	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12	resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States
13	of Micronesia, and the Secretary of the FSM Department of Foreign
14	Affairs, for the earliest deposit of the required instrument of
15	ratification with the Director-General of UNESCO.
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17	Date: 9/15/17 Introduced by: /s/ for Joseph J. Urusemal
18	Florencio S. Harper (by request)
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