



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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*Mayor of Rota*

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July 15, 2008

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N W  
Washington, D.C. 20500

**RE: The Charitable Trusts' Proposal to Designate a National Marine Monument in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.**

**Dear Mr. President Bush:**

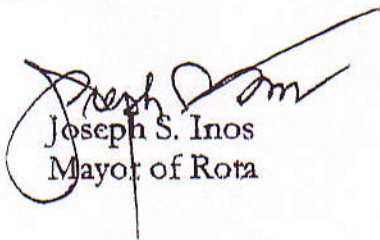
I wish to express my concern over the ever increasing efforts by the Pew Charitable Trusts to have a National Marine Monument designated in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The proposal Pew is advocating on your behalf involves the designation of over one third of the entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), approximately 115,000 square miles, as a "no-take" marine protected area. I am also troubled that the Antiquities Act of 1906 would be used to accomplish this endeavor. It is my understanding that this significant Federal action requires no public or stakeholder involvement and does not require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act or any other laws that protect public interest.

My discussion with community members lead me to believe that the people of the CNMI prefer the current resource management approach being utilized by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service. This management system promotes active participation by many of our island citizens as CNMI representatives in various Advisory Panels, Plan Teams, Science and Statistics Committee, and as Council Members working under guidance of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other Federal Laws. I believe our present resource management approach is more in-line with our belief in the sustainable use of natural resources.

Despite the non-partisan opposition by the CNMI elected leaders against the proposed National Monument, I am disappointed that we continue to be hard-pressed to the point where the issue has now become controversial within our communities. Because of this situation, I do not support the designation of a National Marine Monument in the Mariana Islands as it conflicts with our traditional and sustainable use of marine resources and completely bypasses public and stakeholder involvement.

Therefore, on behalf of the people of Rota, I respectfully request that you not designate a National Marine Monument in the CNMI.

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Inos  
Mayor of Rota

Cc: Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of Interior  
Benigno R. Fitial, CNMI Governor

*"Nature's Treasure Island"*