

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Municipality of Saipan  
Atena Square, San Antonio



**JUAN BORJA TUDELA**  
*Mayor of Saipan*

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

9 June 2008

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

RE: Designation of a Marine National Monument in the Commonwealth of the  
Northern Mariana Islands

Dear President Bush:

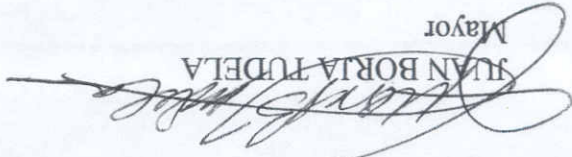
I am writing to convey my serious concern regarding the proposed National Marine Monument that is being promoted by the Pew Charitable Trusts ("Pew") in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"). If designated, the National Marine Monument would convert over one third of the entire Commonwealth's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone into a marine preserve managed by the National Marine Sanctuary Program under NOAA/NOS.

Based on many comments I have received from my constituents on Saipan, I feel that the loss of extractive privileges of natural resources in over 115,000 square miles of water surrounding our northern-most Islands of Uracus, Maug and Asuncion far outweigh any benefits being touted by Pew. Pacific Island traditions are based on a long history of cultural use of natural resources and I find the Monument proposal to be contrary to our basic way of life.

As Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan, I do not support having a National Marine Monument designated in the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, I respectfully request that you maintain the existing resource management authorities, the Western Pacific Fishery Regional Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service. It is my belief that these agencies are much more sensitive to the Pacific Islanders' way of life and our traditional and sustainable approach in the use of our natural resources.

Therefore, on behalf of the people of the island of Saipan, I respectfully request that you do not designate any portion of the CNMII as a National Marine Monument.

Sincerely,

  
JUAN BORJA TUDELA  
Mayor

Cc: James L. Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality  
Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of Interior  
Carlos M. Gutierrez, Secretary of Commerce  
Benigno R. Fitial, CNMII Governor  
Arnold I. Palacios, Speaker CNMII House of Representatives  
Pete P. Reyes, President CNMII Senate  
Ignacio Dela Cruz, Secretary natural Resources  
Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery  
Management Council  
Bill Robinson, NMFS Regional Administrator, Pacific Regional Office  
Joshua Reichart, Pew Charitable Trusts