

**Office of the Mayor**  
MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN  
Post Office Box 59  
San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952



**Jose P. San Nicolas**  
*Mayor*

June 12, 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 concern over the proposed National Marine Monument that is being promoted by the Pew Charitable Trusts ("Pew") in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island ("CNMI"). If designated, the National Marine Monument would convert over one third of the entire CNMI 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, I have reached the conclusion that the loss of extracted privileges of natural resources in over 115,000 square miles of water surrounding our northern-most Islands of Uraeus, Maug and Asuncion far outweighs any benefits being touted by Pew. Pacific Islands 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 Tinian & Aguiguan, I am not in support of having a National Marine Monument designated in the Northern Marianas Islands. Additionally, I respectfully request that you maintain the existing resource management authorities, the Western Pacific Fishery Regional Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service, as 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 Tinian, I respectfully request that you not designate any portion of the CNMI as a National Marine Monument.

Sincerely,

Jose P. San Nicolas

cc: James L. Connaughton, Chairman, Council of Environmental Quality

Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of Interior

Carlos M. Gutierrez, Secretary of Commerce

Benigno R. Fitial, CNMI Governor

Arnold I. Palacios, Speaker CNMI House of Representatives

Pete P. Reyes, President CNMI Senate

Ignacio Dela Cruz, Secretary DLNR

Kitty Simmonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Bill Robinson, NMFS Regional Administrator, Pacific Islands Regional Office

Joshua Reichart, Pew Charitable Trusts