



October 2, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the indigenous communities of the Mariana Islands, we, the Governors of the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands were pleased to provide input to Secretary Ryan Zinke, Department of the Interior, and Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce, in their review of the Marine National Monuments per President Trump's Executive Orders 13791 and 13795. However, it has been brought to our attention that our issues with the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (MTMNM) were overlooked in the leaked Secretary Zinke memo to President Trump. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the key issues identified in our previous letters and respectfully request, at a minimum, that the three issues below be considered as you work to rectify earlier abuses of the Antiquities Act.

1. The Magnuson-Stevens Act should be the lead authority in the management of fisheries within US EEZ waters, including waters of marine national monuments.
2. The indigenous people of the Marianas must be a meaningful co-manager of the MTMNM. This promise by the federal government to the Marianas leadership was a condition for establishing the MTMNM but remains unfulfilled.
3. The Administration should work with Congress to return unencumbered ownership of the 0-3 nm of submerged lands surrounding the monument islands of Uracus, Maug and Asuncion. Congress initially ceded these submerged lands to the CNMI via Public Law 113-34. However, President Obama's Proclamation (No. 9077) unexpectedly exempted the conveyance of submerged lands (0-3 nm) surrounding the islands of Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion that are part of the MTMNM. The unencumbered ownership of these nearshore submerged lands must be conveyed to the CNMI Government as Congress originally intended.

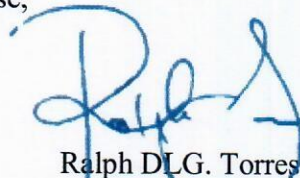
Our island communities depend on the ocean for food, security, and economic opportunities. We are a fishing and seafaring people interwoven with the marine environment. With limited land space, we depend upon our marine resources and would like the opportunity to responsibly conserve our resources while exploring its full utilization.

We understand the strategic importance of the Mariana Archipelago to our National security and military operations. Our communities have sacrificed by contributing significantly to the area of land and ocean is now used for military training. Productive fishing grounds have been closed in the US EEZ in the south and north of Guam and surrounding Farallon de Medinilla and the northern section of Tinian Island. The large-scale fishing closures resulting from the MTMNM compound the impacts from the military closures but without national security, biological resource, or socio-economic benefits.

We respectfully request your support of our ability to sustainably utilize our marine resources, those same resources the indigenous Chamorro people have been managing for thousands of years. Our need and aspirations are being muted by the clamor of well-funded national and international organizations whose agendas ignore the needs and culture of our island people. We know of better ways to sustainably use and manage our natural resources. We hope that you will be able to right the wrong done to the indigenous people of the Marianas by reinstating the MSA's standing as the principal legislation for US fisheries management in the MTMNM, by ensuring meaningful co-management of the MTMNM by the indigenous people of the Marianas, and by working with Congress to return ownership of 0-3 nm in the monument islands to the CNMI.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Eddie B. Calvo  
Governor of Guam



Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor of CNMI

Cc: The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce