

**EMBASSY OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036**

No. 19-12

The Embassy of the Federated States in (FSM) presents its compliments to the United States Department of State and has the honor to register with the latter the following:

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia brings to the attention of the Government of the United States serious allegations that multiple Micronesians citizens are being abused by an employer in the United States after having been recruited to live and work in Iowa under the terms of our Amended Compact of Free Association.

The FSM seeks the assistance of the United States in investigating this matter pursuant to the understandings of our Amended Compact and its related agreements, including the Agreement Regarding Protections for Citizens of Micronesia Seeking to Engage in Employment in the United States Pursuant to Recruitment or Other Placement Services, Section D (1) (providing that the United States will investigate mistreatment of recruited FSM citizens).

Dozens of FSM citizens have reported serious and sustained abuse by **Seaboard Triumph Food**, a pork processing facility located in Sioux City, Iowa. The allegations by these Micronesian citizens include potential human trafficking, labor abuse, and what appear to be other violations of U.S. law.

In this connection, we have received reports that representatives of Seaboard Triumph Food have been traveling to Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, to recruit Micronesian citizens to work at Seaboard Triumph Food's Iowa facility. After they have been recruited by Seaboard Triumph and arriving in the United States, Micronesian citizens have made allegations regarding abuse by Seafood Triumph Food, including the following:

- Employees allege that the work they are performing is inconsistent with the descriptions that were provided by recruiters, and are inconsistent with the terms of the employment contracts they signed.
- Employees allege that employers at Seafood Triumph Food have harassed Micronesian citizens, both physically and emotionally, including verbal abuse.
- Employees allege that Seafood Triumph Food is issuing false social security numbers for employees.
- Employees allege that Seafood Triumph Food has seized their passports, including withholding passports in order to threaten or punish workers.
- Employees allege that Seafood Triumph Food refuses to provide employees with copies of their employment contracts.

The Government of the FSM is extremely concerned about these allegations. Under the Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America, FSM citizens have the right to live and work in the United States without obtaining a visa. In addition, Section D(1) of the Law Enforcement Agreement between the FSM and the United States that is in force provides specifically that, with regard to the recruitment and employment of FSM citizens in the United States, “the Government of the United States agrees to conduct investigations in the United States, as appropriate, to ensure compliance with U.S. law.”

The Government of the FSM respectfully requests the Government of the United States’ urgent attention and action on this matter. We would be pleased to provide additional information as needed.”

The Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United States Department of State the assurances of its highest considerations.

Washington D.C.
September 27, 2019

