



Department of Foreign Affairs Federated States of Micronesia

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March 18, 2022

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Pohnpei and, has the honor to forward the enclosed letter from President David W. Panuelo to Senator Joe Manchin III, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The Department has the further honor to request the Embassy's assistance in ensuring that the letter reaches its esteemed destination.

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America in Pohnpei the assurances of its highest consideration.

Palikir, Pohnpei

Enclosure:





The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin III (D-WV)
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Manchin and Members of the Committee on Energy & Natural Resources,

Kaselehlie and greetings from this Paradise in Our Backyards, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). In my capacity as President of the FSM, I write to you today with regards to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s nomination of Her Excellency Carmen G. Cantor, Ambassador of the U.S. to the FSM, to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Insular & International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Interior.

In her time serving the FSM, the Ambassador has not only successfully demonstrated our shared values of Peace, Unity, and Liberty, but has also played a key role in keeping our Nation COVID-19 free (which it remains to this day). Whether it's been informing our Nation of contemporary, near-future, and long-term security threats in the Indo-Pacific, working to promote women and girls' empowerment, playing a key role in our national COVID-19 Task Force, and strengthening FSM-U.S. relations across the spectrum, the People & Government of the FSM have been extraordinarily happy with her service.

I almost wonder what item would be most persuasive to convince you of her positive impact on our Nation. Is it that Ambassador Cantor has hosted a weekly radio program to describe FSM-U.S. relationship developments, and share American music? Is it that Ambassador Cantor has successfully reenergized the Girl Scouts program in our country? Is it that Ambassador Cantor has played an essential role towards strengthening the FSM's understanding of, and enduring commitment to, a Free & Open Indo-Pacific? Is it that Ambassador Cantor's diplomatic and Defense Attaché team have participated in our COVID-19 Task Force, helping us remain COVID-19 free and receive vaccines as early as December 2020? Or is it all of these things and so much more? Please take me at my word: Ambassador Cantor is the real deal.

That's why it was so bittersweet when I heard that Ambassador Cantor was nominated by President Biden to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Insular & International Affairs: because she is *precisely* the right choice for the position. I can think of no one more suitable and ideal for the role. Ambassador Cantor is an American who loves America and truly represents and stands up for its values; she is an American who has intimate knowledge of both her home island of Puerto Rico, a U.S. Territory, and the Freely Associated States, such as the FSM; and she is an American who truly understands the words in our FSM Constitution, that we extend to all peoples and nations that which we seek: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity. I am both sad that she will be leaving us as the U.S. Ambassador, and genuinely supportive and happy for her nomination. Ambassador Cantor cares about America, yes, but she also cares about Micronesia.



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As it happens, while this may not be a necessary quality in an Assistant Secretary, I can also confirm that Ambassador Cantor is better at playing tennis than she might otherwise suggest.

Rest assured: if over the course of your deliberations any person in your esteemed body wonders "Does the FSM support Ambassador Cantor's nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Insular & International Affairs?" that the answer is a resounding yes. The Government of the FSM categorically endorses Ambassador Cantor's nomination without hesitation or reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Panuelo". The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive nature of the writing.

David W. Panuelo
President
Federated States of Micronesia