



*The President*  
*Palikijr, Pohnpei*  
*Federated States of Micronesia*

November 9, 2020

Dear President-Elect and Vice President-Elect,

Greetings from the Federated States of Micronesia. I write to you today to join the international chorus of congratulations and applause for your recent victory to respectively become the 46<sup>th</sup> President-Elect and 49<sup>th</sup> Vice President-Elect of the United States of America.

The preamble of our Nation's Constitution makes clear that we extend to all nations and peoples that which we seek from each: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity. Americans are our friends, allies, partners, and neighbors. As an alumnus of Eastern Oregon University, I am well familiar with the United States, and in my capacity as the 9<sup>th</sup> President of the Federated States of Micronesia, I am at once pleased and honored to congratulate you both on your recent election victory:

Mr. President-Elect and Madam Vice President-Elect, in the past four years the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America have continued to enhance and strengthen our Enduring Partnership, which is solidified by our shared values of democratic principles, the rule of law, and peace, unity, and liberty. It is my hope and intention that, under your administration, we will continue to move rapidly on issues of mutual import to our two nations, including the completion of the negotiations on the expiring economic provisions of our Compact of Free Association, as Amended. The Federated States of Micronesia has heard the calls from the United States of America to promote a Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region, and Micronesians are committed to doing their part in maintaining regional and international security.

Mr. President-Elect and Madam Vice President-Elect, with respect, I have seen you pronounce that on your first day in office that the United States of America will rejoin the Paris Agreement, and it is my sincere and heartfelt hope that this is precisely what will occur. The Federated States of Micronesia, like our brothers and sisters in the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and indeed throughout the Pacific Region, consider Climate Change an immediate existential threat of the highest order. Climate Change is our Nation's single largest security threat at present, and we have demonstrated our own commitments towards tackling this challenge by, among other measures, advancing the former Office of Environment and Emergency Management to the Cabinet-level Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management, and recently instituting a ban on the importation of most forms of plastic. It will be extraordinarily meaningful to Micronesia, and to Micronesians, if the United States takes the lead on championing Climate Change, which both my predecessors and I have called for in bilateral and multilateral engagements, such as at the United Nations General Assembly.



Mr. President-Elect and Madam Vice President-Elect, this year of 2020 has brought significant challenges, from the COVID-19 Pandemic and the loss of always-precious and invaluable human lives, to economic hardships that are increasingly unequal in the categories of people most affected. Overcoming these challenges may at first appear to be Sisyphean in nature, but I want you to know that I, and the People of the Federated States of Micronesia, have faith in the United States of America, and the American People, in overcoming them, and becoming stronger as a result. As John 1:5 says: "The light shines in the darkness; and the darkness had not overcome it."

Mr. President-Elect and Madam Vice President-Elect, again I extend, on behalf of the Government and the People of the Federated States of Micronesia, our warmest congratulations. We all look forward to continuing to strengthen our FSM-U.S. Enduring Partnership with your administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "David W. Panuelo", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Panuelo  
President

His Excellency Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President-Elect  
United States of America

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
Vice President-Elect  
United States of America