



SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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February 7, 2019

The Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
423 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 559: "Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act," and
H.R. 560: "Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act": (to amend Section 6)

Dear Delegate Sablan:

We are writing as the collective voice of the business community on Saipan. Our Chamber comprises more than 140 private businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations all collaborating to sustain our island's livelihood.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce supports your introduction of H.R. 559 and H.R. 560 to the United States Congress. Long-term legal residents have played an integral role in growing and shaping our Commonwealth. A situation unique due to our historical relationship with the United States, our workers, families, and community needs a permanent solution to an issue that has created an unstable workforce and overall economy.

The introduction of your bill is a positive step in resolving this need for stability. As we continue to rebuild our economy after multiple catastrophic typhoons and fluctuations in industries, the Commonwealth has a dire need for U.S. qualified workers on which our workforce can permanently depend. Their experience and proven work records are an asset to our companies, our industries, and our islands. Most importantly, the solutions outlined in this bill would provide an avenue for existing foreign workers to remain in the Commonwealth while not compromising our border security.

We very much appreciate your effort and attention to our workforce issues.

Regards,

Velma M. Palacios
President
Saipan Chamber of Commerce