



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President

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March 29, 2017
Serial No. 17-68

The Honorable Hokkons Baules
President of the Senate
10th Olbiil Era Kelulau
Ngerulmud, Palau National Capitol
Republic of Palau 96939

Re: Signing Statement: HB No. 10-3-1, HD1, SD1 – Wireless provider coverage maps

Dear Senate President Baules:

I am very happy to sign into law today House Bill No. 10-3-1, HD1, SD1, which requires all commercial wireless service providers to produce and publish coverage maps for consumers. This law is a significant step forward in improving the transparency and consumer protections in our telecommunications sector. The coverage maps mandated by this law will provide greater clarity and peace of mind for subscribers and promise to be a helpful tool that allows them to make a better, more informed choice among service providers.

While the Republic's Bureau of Commercial Development suggested that the lack of publicly available topographic data might make the production of such maps difficult, comments received from the actual wireless service providers indicate that this concern should not prevent the enactment of this law. In fact, PNCC and Palau Wi-Fi have indicated that they already have coverage maps of the type mandated by this law and no service provider has objected to the passage of this law. Accordingly, there is every reason to believe compliance is immediately practicable, though we may need to revisit the issue if problems arise in the future.

As we look forward to the landing of the fiber optic cable and attendant increase in telecommunications capacity, we must remain aware that laying the physical infrastructure is only one piece of the puzzle. To fully utilize this new resource and realize its benefits, we must be prepared to update and modernize our legal framework on telecommunications, with a view toward increasing transparency and consumer protections, mandating infrastructure sharing and, most importantly, improving the choices, quality and reliability of the services offered to



subscribers and end-users. Ultimately, this will require a new and comprehensive telecommunications law, as well as a strong regulatory body to oversee its implementation.

Nonetheless, this new law represents an important, incremental step in the right direction, and shows that telecommunications issues are at the forefront of the minds of our leaders. I trust that we can continue working together to enact a robust and modern telecommunications framework, so that we may further improve Palau's telecommunications sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.", written over a printed name and title.

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau



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March 29, 2017
Serial No. 17-68

The Honorable Sabino Anastacio
Speaker of the House of Delegates
10th Olbiil Era Kelulau
Ngerulmud, Palau National Capitol
Republic of Palau 96939

Re: Signing Statement: HB No. 10-3-1, HD1, SD1 – Wireless provider coverage maps

Dear Speaker Anastacio:

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