

The text of Governor Calvo's letter to President Mori follows:

November 29, 2011

His Excellency Emanuel Mori
President of the Federated States of Micronesia
P.O. Box 34
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Your Excellency,

It was an honor to speak with you Wednesday evening. Thank you for your attention and unwavering commitment to developing Micronesia. I very much appreciated your positive reaction to Guam's quest for the U.S. government to grant a visa waiver program with China.

Like you, I believe opening Guam to the huge and growing outbound Chinese visitor market will benefit Micronesia in ways the U.S. government has been trying to accomplish since the inception of the Compacts of Free Association. At this juncture, we should note that the U.S. government, particularly the Interior Department, has been remiss in its commitments and its obligations both to the growth of the former U.S. Trust Territories, and to the offset of the Compacts' impact to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

But, alas, the argument for the funding unjustly withheld from the islands of Micronesia has become a moot point as the U.S. government struggles even to provide confidence in its security strategy in this part of the world. Federal spending is under heavy scrutiny in nearly all quarters of government, and Defense spending is not immune to these cuts. Recently, U.S. Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) fought to remove funding critical to the welfare of U.S. servicemen and –women and veterans living on Guam. I believe his opinion to be a misguided representation of a neo-conservative push to cut anywhere, everywhere and without consequence or consideration for the U.S.'s own treaties and mandates.

We should be vigilant that U.S. spending on former Trust Territories' aid and for the offset of the impact of migration to Guam and the CNMI is on the chopping block, too.

The irony in this mad rush to cut spending is that the U.S. government itself has suppressed the Micronesian islands' ability to be more self-sustaining, thus causing the need for billions in federal aid throughout the years. All the money the U.S. government invested in education and health facilities, and in transportation and utilities infrastructure in the former Trust Territories, added to the U.S.

Compacts impact funding to Guam and the CNMI have been U.S. government efforts to assist our islands to develop. However, what has always been missing from these efforts is true economic reform that would open Micronesia to the rest of the world through investment and development.

We tout Guam as America's gateway to Asia and Asia's gateway to America. But, Guam also is the world's gateway to Micronesia, a largely undiscovered treasure of natural resources, world-class destinations and magical cultures spanning the largest expanse of ocean in the world. Guam's growth signals Micronesia's success. What is good for one of our islands is good for all others.

We are a fast-maturing region, with eyes set on an ever-changing global economy that is turning more aggressively toward our part of the world. This is evident by your country's unique relationship with China, and by the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands' growing relationships with the region. This is also evident by America's commitment to its allies in this region via Guam and the planned buildup. The recent announcement of rotating Marine forces through Darwin, Australia is yet another sign of American renewal of strength in Asia since the pullout at Clark and Subic.

All U.S. interests in this part of the world find entry and exit from sovereign U.S. soil in three locations: Apra Harbor, the A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam, and Andersen Air Force Base. All three are located on Guam. This simple fact, coupled with the resort destination we provide, has made Guam an ideal vacation spot for Asian tourists from Japan, Korea and Taiwan. It is why we believe a large number of Chinese tourists will come to Guam if the U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants the visa waiver program we've been seeking.

Fortunately our government has found allies within the U.S. Department of Defense, where we've learned that a separate division has been stifling our push for the VWP. Thanks to Defense Deputy Under Secretary Dorothy Robyn, Navy Under Secretary Robert Work, Navy Assistant Secretary Jackalynne Pfannenstiel, Admiral Paul Bushong and General John Doucette, we've managed to engage in China VWP discussions at a level never before achieved. These leaders understand how this one program can offset the disparity that has grown in recent decades between Guam's struggle to meet the demands of federal unfunded mandates and the Interior Department and Congress' remiss in meeting federal obligations. To put this into perspective, the 13.3 percent unemployment rate on Guam, which includes citizens from your country who are also struggling to get ahead, can dissolve if Guamanians – everyone living on Guam – had career opportunities borne from strong economic output. Moreover, an

improvement in our economy will allow many of the unemployed and under-employed on Guam to remove themselves from the rolls of public benefit, thus reducing the disparity in and the burden of the unfunded U.S. federal mandates while allowing the government to continue providing public services to the truly needy. Put simply, these elements of the Defense Department understand the potential the China VWP can have for Guam and the region, and how this development can greatly aid U.S. diplomatic interests and military endeavors in this part of the world.

We need more voices. We need for all elements of the federal establishment to know that allowing Guam's economy to transform with large investments by Chinese tourists will allow major regional development. The development of a Chinese tourist market to Guam will translate into a world-class regional destination choice to all islands of Micronesia, thus increasing economic activity in all islands. Such an increase will mean a larger tax base and more revenues for all of our islands to provide the services our people deserve... services the U.S. government will no longer have to provide. Thus, Mr. President, I am asking for your support in my campaign to develop a more self-sustaining Micronesia, sensitive to the U.S. financial crisis and supportive of U.S. interests in perpetuity. I ask for your support of the VWP with China for Guam.

I will gladly welcome your letters of support to the U.S. Secretaries of Homeland Security, Defense, State and the Interior to this effect.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

cc: U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Secretary of Defense
U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Secretary of the Interior
National Governors Association
Republican Governors Association