



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 18 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I am writing to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to expedite its consideration and approval of H.R. 1365, legislation making technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act (Act) (Title XVII, Public Law 114-328). I understand the House Committee on Natural Resources has scheduled H.R. 1365 for its markup on June 19, 2019.

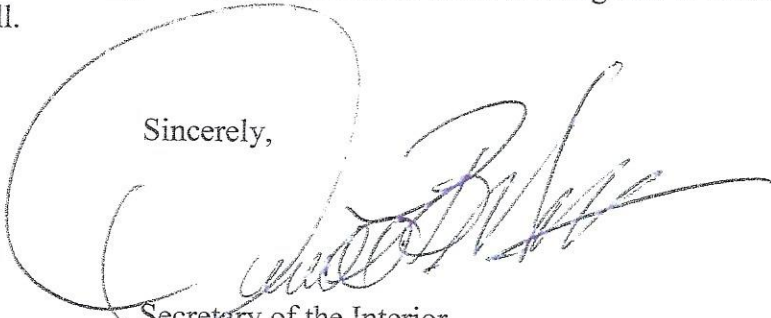
Representative San Nicolas introduced this important bill because the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) believes that it lacks the authority to use certain existing funds to pay adjudicated claims to compensable victims and Guam decedents, as required by the Act. I understand that Treasury provided drafting assistance to Representative San Nicolas for H.R. 1365, as well as H.R. 1141, which was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. Therefore, the language in H.R. 1365 accounts for and resolves Treasury's concerns.

Passage of H.R. 1365 will bring to close a dark chapter for the people of Guam. Having endured the atrocities committed by Imperial Japanese Forces when the island was occupied during World War II, the people of Guam then experienced a long, tormented history of success and disappointment with respect to the payment of their war claims. The enactment of the Act was supposed to put in place mechanisms that would allow funds to be distributed. However, the citizens of Guam were disappointed yet again by the Act's ambiguous authorization language. H.R. 1365 finally will fix this and allow compensable victims and Guam decedents to receive their payments.

Guam celebrates its 75th anniversary of liberation on July 21, 2019. The Department of the Interior respectfully requests prompt congressional action to enact H.R. 1365 and thereby allow Treasury to start distributing payments for certified claims before Guam's historic event.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. A similar letter is being sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Sincerely,



Secretary of the Interior



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JUN 18 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

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