

Chair, Rosenbaum, Vice Chair Ferrioli and Committee members. My name is Loyd Henion, member of the COFA Alliance National Network or CANN. With me today is David Anitok, President of the Oregon Marshallese Community, and past President of CANN.

I want to first say that I am deeply appreciative of Fred Schafer, Commander of the National Association of Atomic Veterans for supporting the Marshallese quest to reveal the disastrous effects that US bomb testing had on the Islanders and how those tests were equally damaging to the American service men and women involved with the testing and cleanup missions. It was through Fred Schafer and his NAAV members that Representative Sprenger became acquainted with the serious and continuing problems these people all face from the pernicious effects of exposure to high radiation that still exists in the Islands. The Marshallese people cannot thank Representative Sprenger enough for this powerful Resolution which serves as a strong memorandum to the Oregon legislature of just how serious the consequences of our bomb testing has been in the Marshall Islands. This of all things is NOT a partisan issue.

Shortly after I hired a Marshallese woman to take care of my aging mother, I became aware of some inexplicable oversights in our treatment to this population. There are obligations that we have shirked that seem totally inconsistent with our Treaties with them consummated in 1986. For example I learned that we were treating our legal COFA residents like undocumented aliens and issuing only temporary Driver's License cards. I felt determined to assist this community with navigating the pathway for passing a state of Oregon bill to correct this injustice. I want to once again express our appreciation to the 2013 Oregon legislature for "righting" this Driver's License injustice by passing HB 2517 unanimously . Because the Oregon Legislature took action, our Compact of

Free Association residents can now live more freely among us as they now find it a bit easier to get apartments, bank loans, and even jobs.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity testify on this important resolution.

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