

May 13, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

The Kagman Community Association is the largest community association on the island of Saipan. Kagman is the largest village on Saipan, with over 15,000 residents.

Representatives from the Pew Environment Group presented to our association on a proposed Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. Our association supports any project that will protect our fragile island environment, especially one that would be of such global significance. We believe that there are more advantages than disadvantages for making the 3 northernmost Mariana Islands a sanctuary. We feel that proclaiming the islands as a sanctuary would help protect our scarce resources from poachers and illegal fishing. Those islands are located hundreds of miles away from the nearest port and are basically inaccessible to residents because of its proximity. There are many islands between Saipan and the 3 proposed islands where fishing can take place. Therefore, we support turning the 3 northernmost Mariana Islands into a protected sanctuary.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jesse D. Torres

President of the Kagman Community Association