



PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

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May 1, 2008

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

Dear President Bush:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Laurie Peterka, entrepreneur, student-mentor, community service volunteer and 15-years resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI). Earlier this year, I learned about your Ocean Legacy endeavors and goals for protecting marine habits via Pew Environment Group (PEG).

I am writing to say that I support the concept that PEG has presented to the CNMI to create a marine park monument of the area surrounding the three northernmost islands of the CNMI archipelago. Due to the nature of a small island community, I believe it is prudent that voices of the people, not only be heard on an individual basis, but taken more seriously than our dysfunctional government's unwillingness to come to the table to consider the possibilities such as designation would create for our islands. In fact, I am so inspired that I contributed the cover story on the proposed concept, which was featured in the April/May issue of our local MP Magazine. It is my hope that my research and resulting article will provide valuable information to our citizens and leaders regarding the potential that such a designation could provide for the CNMI. Subsequently, I have been quite moved by the number of people who have thanked me for contributing the article. I have not had any negative feedback whatsoever.

Please accept this letter as my personal request to your office to keep dialogue on this concept open to the people of the CNMI. It is my personal impression that people are interested in learning more about how the monument would work and what the benefits and costs will be.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Laurie Peterka

Owner – Practical Solutions
President – No. Marianas Volleyball Association
Director – Island Skate Society
Member – Rotary Club of Saipan
Member – Saipan Chamber of Commerce
Member – Marianas Visitor's Authority