Attachment D CNMI House of Representatives Letter of Endorsement



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-F RST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

The Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building

BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO SPEAKER

> October 6, 2020 Michael Alex Executive Vice President Kacific Satellite Corporation

Letter of Endorsement

As a member of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI) House of Representatives, and as the Speaker and presiding officer, I am writing to express my unequivocal endorsement and full support to Kacific Satellite Corporation and particularly, my commitment to assist Kacific Satellite Corporation in its efforts to bring their satellite broadband internet services to the CNMI.

The establishment of reliable and competent internet service is not a mere matter of convenience in the CNMI where our major islands are separated by miles of ocean and travel among them is often impractical for various reasons. In addition, due to the potential health hazards and adverse effects caused by Covid-19, our government has implemented strict quarantine and social distancing measures. All this has led to a significant and critical need for increased internet services. To address this need, this past September 2020, the CNMI enacted a public law permit video conferencing to allow our Commonwealth Election Commission to meet online via video conferencing to assist their members who reside in our neighboring islands. We also passed legislation in the House to allow all boards and commissions to hold their meetings and conduct official business online, via video conferencing. Our hope is to provide our constituents with the ability to attend meetings and participate in our government by live streaming our public meetings. Without sufficient broadband Internet services these two landmark pieces of legislation would be meaningless.

Internet connectivity such as the service provided by Kacific Satellite Corporation, is urgently needed to bridge the gaps between our main islands that exist when flights are unavailable, when the weather does not permit travel, or when we have the need to conduct official business quickly and without the need to physically travel and incur other government expenses. With our concerns for COVID-19, technology such as satellite internet service is not only convenient it can save lives by minimizing contact or by making telemedicine a reality.

We envision the Satellite Internet Services provided by Kacific Satellite Corporation as a vital tool for local and federal government first responders, one that will help them to deliver faster services especially in underserved remote areas and the other island municipalities of the CNMI. In addition, our public and private schools can use these services to deliver a priceless commodity -- an education, to students who presently lack reliable internet connectivity. And in terms of monitoring and tracking of COVID-19, we foresee the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force delivering vital information and allowing telemedicine to reach our remote municipalities, hospitals, and clinics.

The internet connectivity provided by Kacific Satellite Corporation services will also improve the capacity of our local businesses and financial institutions, to deliver faster business transactions, and promote their product and services in broader areas which helps improve our local economy. I also see Kacific's services providing the people of CNMI with a more practical way to be connected to their families, relatives, and friends. This will keep cultures and traditions healthy, while still being mindful of social distancing protocols.

Based on the foregoing and the significant impact to our services, health, security, and economy, I, as the presiding officer of the 21st Commonwealth House of Representatives, fully support and endorse Kacific Satellite Corporation with Marianas Wireless and respectfully encourage and warmly welcome your reputable company and its services to the CNMI.

Sincerely,

Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

Speaker