

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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September 2, 2015

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen McCain and Thornberry and Ranking Members Reed and Smith:

As you conference the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, I request that you agree to retain Section 564 of the House bill. This provision amends 10 U.S.C. §§ 4342(a), 6954(a), and 9342(a), adding one nomination for appointment to each military service academy to the number allotted each delegate from Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I cannot speak for other districts, but in the case of the Northern Mariana Islands the current limit on nominations means that in the upcoming admissions cycle for school year 2016-2017 I will not be able to nominate any applicants to either the U.S. Air Force Academy or the U.S. Military Academy. The two vacancies currently reserved for my constituents at these two academies are already filled.

Initially, this limit reflected concern that the Northern Mariana Islands would not be able to produce nominees in sufficient number or of the caliber the academies require. That has not proven the case. Instead, the limit on nominations is forcing me to turn away promising candidates, highly motivated to serve our country.

I respectfully request that House Section 564 be incorporated in the final FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress