



GOV. COMM. 15-192  
(HOUSE)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

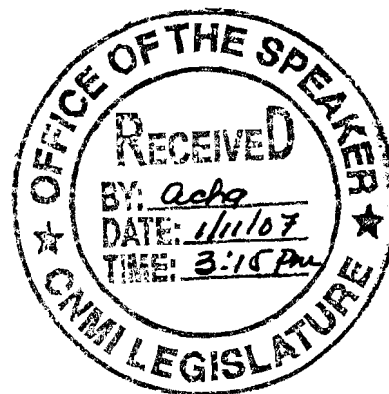
**Benigno R. Fitia**  
Governor

**Timothy P. Villagomez**  
Lieutenant Governor

JAN 11 2007

The Honorable Joseph M. Mendiola  
Senate President, The Senate  
Fifteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Oscar M. Babauta  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Fifteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950



Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill 15-87, HD1, SD2 entitled, "To create a multi-government agency and community task force to develop and implement a Commonwealth Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 15-42**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

BENIGNO R. FITIAL

cc: Special Legal Counsels, Office of the Governor  
Legal Counsel, Office of the Lt. Governor  
Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General  
Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone: (670) 664-2200/2300 Facsimile: (670) 664-2211/2311

Secretary, Department of Public Works  
Secretary, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs  
Secretary, Department of Finance  
Coastal Resources Management Office  
Director, Division of Environmental Quality  
Special Assistant, Office of Management and Budget  
Director, Historic Preservation Office  
Secretary, Department of Public Lands  
Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority  
Secretary, Department of Commerce  
Washington Representative  
Public School System  
Saipan Rotary Club  
Pacific Telecommunications Inc.  
Saipan Chamber of Commerce  
Strategic Economic Development Council  
All Department and Activity Heads  
All Mayors  
All Municipal Councils  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Special Assistant to the Administration  
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



*The House of Representatives*  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

December 7, 2006

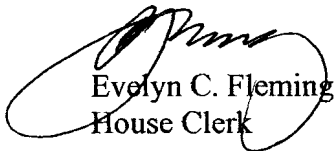
PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-42

The Honorable Timothy P. Villagomez  
Acting Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Villagomez:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 15-87, HD1, SD2**, entitled:  
"To create a multi-government agency and community task force to develop and implement a  
Commonwealth Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan; and for other purposes." The Bill was  
passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Fifteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Evelyn C. Fleming  
House Clerk

Attachment



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

THIRD DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2006

PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-42  
**H. B. No. 15-87, HD1, SD2**

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**AN ACT**

To create a multi-government agency and community task force to develop and implement a Commonwealth Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan; and for other purposes.

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**In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Offered by Representative:** Absalon V. Waki, Jr.

**Date:** February 28, 2006

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Public Utilities,  
Transportation and Communications

Public Hearing: None

Standing Committee Report: None

**Passed First Reading on May 19, 2006; Final Reading on August 8, 2006**

**Accepted Senate Amendments on November 24, 2006**

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**In the SENATE**

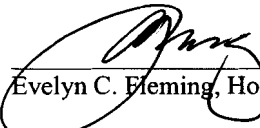
Referred to: Committee on Fiscal Affairs

Public Hearing: None

Standing Committee Report: None

**Passed Final Reading on October 19, 2006**

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Evelyn C. Fleming, House Clerk



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2006

PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-42

**H. B. No. 15-87, HD1, SD2**

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**AN ACT**

To create a multi-government agency and community task force to develop and implement a Commonwealth Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTEENTH NORTHERN  
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the "Commonwealth  
2 Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan Act of 2006."

3           **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that multiple government  
4 agencies and private entities are tasked with developing, constructing, and maintaining the  
5 Commonwealth's infrastructure, which include among other things, roads and highways,  
6 airports, seaports, power, water, sewer, telephone services, and radio and television  
7 broadcasts. However, these government agencies and private entities concentrate mainly on  
8 their infrastructure rather than work towards a comprehensive "city" infrastructure plan. For  
9 example, the Department of Public Works focuses solely on roads and highways while the  
10 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation concentrates on power, water, and sewer projects,  
11 which are often constructed under existing roads and highways. Pacific Telecom, Inc. and  
12 the Marianas Cable Vision provide telephone services and television broadcasts, respectively,  
13 without much intervention and participation from the government.

14           The Legislature finds that government agencies and private entities tasked with  
15 developing and maintaining the infrastructure of the Commonwealth must work cohesively to  
16 improve, enhance, expand, and expedite such development for the benefit of the people. The  
17 Legislature further finds that the Commonwealth could save money by combining capitol  
18 improvement projects for different agencies. These savings could be used for other much  
19 needed infrastructure projects or to expand existing projects.

1           The Legislature further finds that several government agencies presently have  
2 engineers and planners that could assist the task force in developing a comprehensive  
3 infrastructure plan. The task force should use existing infrastructure plans, if any, to develop  
4 a comprehensive infrastructure plan. The purpose of this Act is to mandate that a multi-  
5 government agency and community task force ("task force") be created to develop a  
6 comprehensive infrastructure plan for the Commonwealth.

7           **Section 3. Establishment of a Commonwealth Comprehensive Infrastructure**  
8 **Plan Task Force.**

9           (a) There is hereby established a Commonwealth Comprehensive  
10 Infrastructure Plan Task Force (hereinafter referred to as "the Task Force"), whose  
11 members are as follows:

- 12           (1) The Department of Public Works;
- 13           (2) The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation;
- 14           (3) The Coastal Resources Management Office;
- 15           (4) The Division of Environmental Quality;
- 16           (5) The CIP Management Office;
- 17           (6) The Office of Management and Budget;
- 18           (7) The Historic Preservation Office;
- 19           (8) The Department of Public Lands;
- 20           (9) The Commonwealth Ports Authority;
- 21           (10) The Department of Commerce;
- 22           (11) Office of the Mayors of Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, and the  
23 Northern Islands;
- 24           (12) Resident Representative to the U.S.;
- 25           (13) The Public School System;
- 26           (14) The Saipan Zoning Board;
- 27           (15) The Chamber of Commerce;

- (16) Saipan Rotary Club;
- (17) The Pacific Telecom, Inc;
- (18) The Marianas Cable Vision;
- (19) Strategic Economic Development Council; and
- (20) Department of Finance.

(b) The Chairperson shall be the appointee of the House of Representatives and shall schedule and preside over meetings of the Task Force. The Task Force may adopt rules and operating procedures in order to facilitate its work without regard to the provisions of 1 CMC Division 9, Chapter 1, the Administrative Procedure Act. The Task Force may solicit written comments regarding proposals, and may hold public hearings on proposed draft legislation.

**Section 4. Quorum.** Ten members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Task Force, and all matters shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting, except that the concurrence of at least ten members shall be necessary for the adoption of any report required to be transmitted pursuant to this Act. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

**Section 5. Compensation.** Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Cost of such reimbursement may be born by the Executive Branch upon request of the Task Force.

**Section 6. Duties of the Task Force.** The Task Force shall have the following duties:

- (a) review and develop a comprehensive infrastructure plan for the Commonwealth;
- (b) recommend and draft legislation necessary to implement such plan; and
- (c) report its findings and recommendations to the legislature within six months after the appointment of all twenty-four (24) members.

1           If the Task Force finds that additional time is necessary or required to submit its  
2 findings and recommendations to the legislature, the legislature may extend the time by joint  
3 resolution upon request of the Task Force.

4           **Section 7. Staffing.** Reasonable staff support shall be provided by the Department of  
5 Public Works, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, and the Offices of the Governor and  
6 Lt. Governor, upon request by the Task Force. The Task Force shall work with federal  
7 officials or other professionals, who may provide the Commonwealth with the technical  
8 assistance in the area of infrastructure planning. In the event technical assistance grants, or  
9 other funding becomes available for purposes related to this act, the Task Force may contract  
10 with the private vendors for staff and consulting services as it deems necessary. The  
11 contracting officer and expenditure authority of the Task Force shall be the chairperson.

12           **Section 8. Tenure.** This Task Force shall come into existence upon the enactment of  
13 this Act, and shall cease to exist after submitting its final report, recommendations and draft  
14 legislation to the legislature.

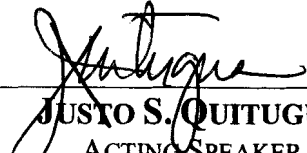
15           **Section 9. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
16 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
17 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
18 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
19 The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
20 any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes  
21 effective.

22           **Section 10. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
23 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
24 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
25 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.



1       Section 11. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
2 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

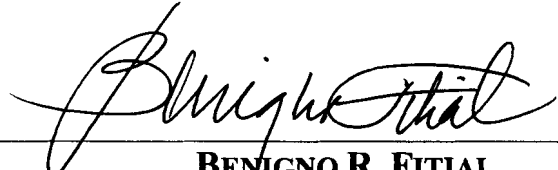
CERTIFIED BY:

  
JUSTO S. QUITUGUA  
ACTING SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
EVELYN C. FLEMING  
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY 2007  
2006

  
BENIGNO R. FITIAL  
GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS