

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the development, study, and potential deployment of safe, resilient advanced nuclear energy technologies, including small modular reactors and microreactors within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in coordination with the United States Government.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands remains heavily
2 dependent on imported petroleum products and vulnerable fuel supply chains for electrical
3 power generation; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Super Typhoon Sinlaku demonstrated the continuing vulnerability of
5 the Commonwealth's power generation and fuel offload infrastructure to natural disasters
6 and other disruptions; and

7 **WHEREAS**, reliable and resilient electrical power is essential to the health, safety,
8 economic stability, and long-term prosperity of the people of the Commonwealth; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth serves a vital role in the national defense posture
10 of the United States in the Western Pacific and functions as a critical alternate location for
11 air and seaport operations supporting the Mariana Islands and the broader Western Indo-
12 Pacific region; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the United States and its allies are making substantial investments in
14 defense infrastructure, training capabilities, and operational readiness throughout the
15 Commonwealth and the broader Micronesia region in support of a free and open Indo-
16 Pacific; and

17 **WHEREAS**, resilient and diversified energy infrastructure strengthens both
18 civilian emergency preparedness and United States national defense capabilities in the
19 region; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Public Law 17-10 amended the Commonwealth's Nuclear and
2 Chemical Free Zone Act to allow certain United States Department of Energy approved
3 Small Modular Reactor technologies for electrical generation purposes under specified
4 safety conditions; and

5 **WHEREAS**, advances in modern nuclear technology, including Small Modular
6 Reactors, microreactors, and other advanced reactor technologies, have significantly
7 improved operational safety, passive safety systems, environmental protections, reliability,
8 and energy resilience; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature recognizes the potential for advanced nuclear
10 technologies to provide long-term stable and affordable power generation, reduce
11 dependence on imported fossil fuels, stabilize and potentially reduce energy costs for
12 ratepayers, support economic growth, and improve disaster resilience for future
13 generations of Commonwealth residents; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth does not possess the financial capacity to
15 independently fund the installation, operation, or long-term maintenance of advanced
16 nuclear energy systems, and any future deployment must be supported through partnership
17 with the United States Government and structured to protect Commonwealth ratepayers
18 from unreasonable energy costs; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the United States Government, including the Department of War,
20 Department of Energy, and related federal agencies, are currently evaluating and funding
21 advanced reactor programs, including Project JANUS and other resilient energy initiatives,
22 for potential deployment in strategic locations throughout the United States and its
23 territories;

24 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth
25 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the House concurring, that both houses of
26 the Legislature support continued study, evaluation, planning, and coordination regarding
27 the potential deployment of safe and resilient advanced nuclear energy technologies within
28 the Commonwealth; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislature encourages the United States
2 Department of War, Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and other
3 relevant federal agencies to consider the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
4 including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, for feasibility studies, pilot programs, demonstration
5 projects, and future deployment opportunities involving Small Modular Reactors,
6 microreactors, and other advanced resilient energy technologies, including initiatives such
7 as Project JANUS and other federal resilient energy and advanced nuclear programs; and

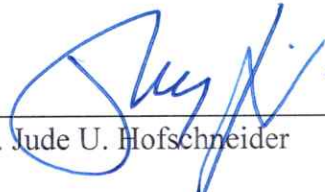
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any future consideration of advanced nuclear
9 energy systems within the Commonwealth should prioritize public safety, environmental
10 stewardship, transparency, community engagement, affordability, long-term rate stability,
11 and compliance with all applicable federal and Commonwealth laws and regulations; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislature expects any future advanced
13 nuclear energy program within the Commonwealth to include responsible federal planning
14 and long-term solutions for the handling, removal, transportation, storage, and disposal of
15 spent nuclear materials and related components in accordance with all applicable federal
16 safety and environmental standards; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislature supports continued
18 collaboration and partnership between the Commonwealth government, the United States
19 Government, utility stakeholders, emergency management officials, defense agencies, and
20 community leaders to evaluate resilient energy solutions capable of supporting both
21 civilian and national defense requirements without imposing unreasonable financial
22 burdens on the Commonwealth or its ratepayers; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate and the Speaker
24 of the House of Representatives shall certify, and the Senate Legislative Secretary and the
25 House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this joint resolution, and thereafter the Senate
26 Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the
27 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds,
28 CNMI Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, 119th United States
29 Congress; the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America; the

1 Honorable Doug Burgum, the Secretary of the U.S Department of Interior and Chairperson
2 of the U.S. National Energy Dominance Council; the Honorable Pete Hegseth, the
3 Secretary the U.S. Department of War; the Honorable Hung Cao, the Acting Secretary of
4 the U.S. Navy; the Honorable Dan Driscoll, the Secretary of the U.S. Army; the Honorable
5 Chris Wright, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; Chairman Ho K. Nieh, U.S.
6 Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Admiral Samuel J. Paparo Jr., Commander of U.S. Indo-
7 Pacific Command; U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Joshua Lasky, Commander of Joint Task Force
8 Micronesia; U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Brett Mietus, Commander of Joint Region Marianas;
9 Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr., Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 9; Mr. Allen M. Perez,
10 Chairman of the Board of the Directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation; and
11 Mr. Kevin O. Watson, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Date: 5/20/2026Introduced By: 
Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider