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# Department of Agriculture Dipåttamenton Agrikottura

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**Chelsa Muña-Brecht**  
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Douglas W. Domenech  
Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Mail-Stop 3119  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Håfa adai Assistant Secretary Domenech,

As the Chairperson of the Guam Invasive Species Council, I am pleased to submit a letter of support for Dr. Moore's grant proposal entitled *Establishment of Self-sustaining Biological Control of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Biotype G in Micronesia*.

We have identified the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) as a priority invasive species that threatens Guam's forest and agricultural ecosystems. CRB has killed large numbers of coconuts and other indigenous palms on Guam. It will continue to do so and continue to spread to other islands in Micronesia and beyond if we cannot get the Guam outbreak under control.

Dr. Moore at the University of Guam is offering a promising, sustainable solution to our problem. Unfortunately, USDA-APHIS is not supporting CRB work on Guam during FY2020. Dr. Moore has invested several years into viral biocontrol development and stoppage at this critical point may cause an irreparable setback. I urge your office to fund his proposal.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

**Chelsa Muña-Brecht**  
Director