Mr. Fred Singebau

TITLE

ADDRESS

DATE

Nikolao Pula, Director

Office of Insular Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W. Mail-Stop 2429

Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Pula,

This is a letter of support for Dr. Moore's grant proposal to support his work towards biological control of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Guam and Palau.

We have had the rhino beetle in Palau since the WW2, but it was under very effective biological control by a virus for many years. However, a few years ago we noticed a resurgence in rhino beetle damage and now some areas are showing high levels of damage. Dr. Moore tells me that the new damage is from the new CRB-G biotype which has arrived in Palau. CRB-G is resistant to the virus which controled the original biotype in Palau. Dr. Moore has been looking for a replacement biocontrol virus that will work with CRB-G and he may have found one in the Philippines. If this new strain of virus kills CRB-G on Guam, Dr. Moore would like to help us out by releasing it in Palau.

I am hoping that his proposal will be funded.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Singebau, TITLE