Mr. Tamdad Sulog, Chair

Regional Invasive Species Council

ADDRESS

DATE

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Domenech,

As Chair of the Regional Invasive Species Council for the Western Pacific, 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*.

Without a reducing the high populations of CRB on Guam, it is just a matter of time before this pest spreads within Micronesia. CRB-G is a major pest of coconut which kills coconut palms and other plants. It is already found on Guam, in the Republic of Palau, and on Rota in the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. If it gets onto the smaller islands and atolls where coconut is the “tree of life” this will be a humanitarian tragedy, possibly forcing islanders to leave home and move to larger population centers.

RISC has been asked, via a communiques from the Micronesian Forum, which is a meeting of all the Micronesian Governors, to help find a solution to the rhino beetle problem. Dr. Moore is offering a promising, sustainable solution, and I urge your office to fund his proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Tamdad Sulog, TITLE