



June 15, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

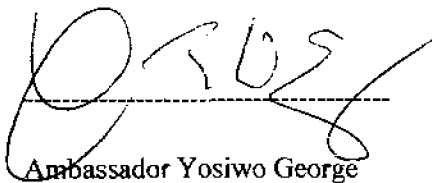
We are writing to request the United States Government's support for the pending proposal by Federated States of Micronesia and Mauritius to regulate and phase-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. On April 30, 2009, Micronesia and Mauritius filed a proposed amendment to the Montreal Protocol that would reduce production and consumption of HFCs in developed and developing countries by 90 percent by 2030. If approved, this proposal would lead to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions far greater than the reduction achieved by the Kyoto Protocol during its first commitment period. HFCs are hundreds to thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), persist in the atmosphere for as long as 250 years, and are primarily used as replacements for ozone-depleting substances that are being phased-out under the Montreal Protocol.

Currently, HFCs are only addressed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Aggressive regulation of HFC production and consumption under the Convention, however, depends on the success of international climate negotiations and ratification of a post-2012 agreement – a process that could take years. Moreover, such action would only affect HFC emissions in industrialized countries, which has led to forecasts that HFCs could account for up to one third of total greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 under various CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization scenarios. These projections are of deep concern to those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Even if developed countries made significant mid-term cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the continued growth of HFCs globally could trigger near-term abrupt climate changes that would destroy our way of life, our homes, and displace our populations.

We are pleased that the United States led the robust discussion regarding the inclusion of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol last year. We are also encouraged by the recent letters of support from Senators Kerry and Boxer and Representative Waxman. Your commitment to reestablish U.S. leadership in the fight against climate change has given us new hope that your Administration will continue to use the Montreal Protocol to achieve more immediate mitigation, and in the process, buy the world invaluable time to address global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under the Convention. We look forward to continuing our conversations with your staff at the HFC workshop and related meetings in Geneva in mid-July. As we advance negotiations under the UNFCCC, please note that such a significant victory at the Montreal Protocol meeting in November could help set the stage for a successful outcome in Copenhagen.

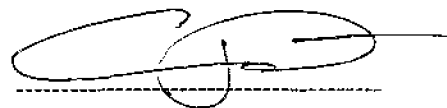
Mr. President, please understand that your leadership is indispensable. We are representative of all vulnerable small island states around the world and the many other low-lying coastal countries that face the growing threat of extinction from climate change. The future of our societies depends on you. Please join us in leading the effort to strengthen the Montreal Protocol in a way that benefits the climate.

Sincerely,



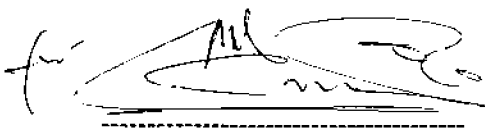
Ambassador Yosiwo George

Federated States of Micronesia



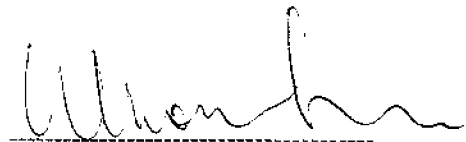
Charge d'Affaires Charles Paul

Republic of the Marshall Islands



Ambassador Evan J. Paki

Papua New Guinea



Ambassador Winston Thompson

Republic of the Fiji Islands