



GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

January 21, 2022

THE HONORABLE THERESE TERLAJE
Speaker, *I Mina' Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
Chairperson, Committee on Health, Land, Justice, & Culture
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos
Hagåtña, 96910, Guam

RE: Bill No. 83-36

Dear Madame Speaker,

It is the Chamber's understanding that Bill No. 83-36 has been placed on this session's Legislative agenda. We urge the Guam Legislature's support in passing this measure which makes amendments towards the size, weight, load limitations, and restrictions of certain vehicles as it applies to the haul road from Piti to Harmon on Route 1, Marine Corps Drive. This proposal has been vetted by all concerned parties (within the government and the private sector) and they have expressed that the bill meets the needs addressed. It is additionally a good and practical way forward.

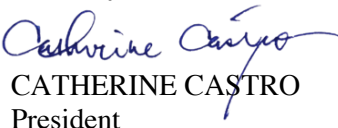
Bill 83-36 boils down to reducing and stabilizing transportation costs from the Port Authority of Guam to Harmon, where many of our wholesale warehouses are located. When the Transportation Enforcement Screening Station (TESS) statute was established several years ago under PL 33-105, the concerning factor for businesses was the implementation of stiff measurements for large vehicles resulting in additional fees, forcing importers to increase the cost of goods to their customers, which would eventually be passed to the end user. While we recognize that the intent of the TESS Law was to provide sustainability for Guam's roadways, it was quickly recognized that some balance needed to be identified and addressed. We feel strongly that the authors of the bill, in working with the Department of Public Works and with our private sector haulers, contractors and wholesale merchants, have addressed the issues of concerns from all parties within the proposed measure.

Because of Guam's unique location, our community has had to work with the high cost of shipping consumer goods and products to our island. There are many factors which lead to the costs of goods, and transportation is a critical component in the process. While wholesalers may not be able to guarantee that the passage of this measure would reduce the cost of everyday products at the retail end, it would allow them to reduce their expenditures. Therefore, economic factors such as competition and supply & demand would drive consumer decisions at the retail front.

In today's economic climate, the Guam Legislature's support of the private sector to keep consumer prices stabilized would be in the best interest of the community as a whole. As we work cooperatively to bring ourselves out of an economic blight caused by a global pandemic, your support, and the support of your colleagues to pass this measure would be very helpful for our families.

Un dangkulu' na si yu'os ma'ase for your consideration.

Sincerely,


CATHERINE CASTRO
President