

## FB MESSAGE with Senator Robson Romolow

The following is the full transcript (no edits) of the FB message exchange with FSM Congressman Robson Romolow on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015 at 5:03 am. The good senator opted to message me privately instead of continuing the public dialogue on Facebook (see page 17). I'm making this transcript available publicly in the interest of transparency.

DEFINITIONS: Helpful background information for those who are not familiar with the names mentioned in the full transcript. In order of appearance...

1. **Northwest** = Northwest region (Election District #5) consists of the Namonweito, Pafeng, and Pattiw groups of small and remote islands located in the Northwestern-most corner of Chuuk State.
2. **Robson Romolow** = Congressman Robson U. Romolow is from Polowat in Chuuk State, FSM who represents the Northwest region in the current 19th FSM Congress. He was elected into office in March, 2015 and began his tenure on May 11, 2015.
3. **Vid Raatior** = I am a proud Chuukese educator, social entrepreneur, citizen journalist, web designer living in Hilo, Hawaii. I am the Director of the Pacific Islander Student Center at University of Hawaii at Hilo and a doctoral student in the College of Education's Professional Educational Practice program at University of Hawaii at Manoa.
4. **Matt** = Senator Matt Kuor from Houk Island represents the Northwest region in the Chuuk State Legislature. He and the entire House of Senate supported the recent attempt by the Chuuk State leadership to secede from the FSM in the last election, March 2015.
5. **Winiplat** = Winiplat Bisalen from Polowat Island is the Special Assistant to the Governor of Chuuk State. He represents the Northwest region on the Chuuk Political Status Commission (CPSC)
6. **Chuuk Commission** = The Chuuk Political Status Commission (CPSC) comprises of politically appointed representatives to study Chuuk's best status after the 2023 expiration of the economic provision of the Compact of Free Association (COFA). The CPSC led the effort for Chuuk State to secede from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to form an independent Republic of Chuuk.
7. **ChuukState.org** = The official website ([www.chuukstate.org](http://www.chuukstate.org)) that I created and continue to manage for the Chuuk Reform Movement (CRM). I founded CRM for the young generation of Chuukese citizens at home and abroad who support unity of the nation while calling for political, social, and educational reform in the State of Chuuk.
8. **Pete** = Peter Christian is the President of the Federated States of Micronesia

## FULL TRANSCRIPT of Facebook Message – November 26, 2015

Today



5:03am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Vid did you post any question to matt kuor when he was championing the secession



5:05am

[Vid Raatior](#)

Yes, I challenged both of them



5:05am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Just thought I ask

I did not see your post



5:05am

[Vid Raatior](#)

I challenged Winiplat when he came to Hilo. You can view it all on video

What's your point? that i'm being unfair to you? Go ask Matt and Winiplat yourself



5:07am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Thought I ask



5:07am

[Vid Raatior](#)

I think you're missing the whole point of my post..



5:08am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Because I never seen an article posted



5:08am

[Vid Raatior](#)

Read all my articles on [www.chuukstate.org](http://www.chuukstate.org)

No one led that effort but me so it's all public



5:09am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Well why didn't you wrote an article an posted



5:09am

[Vid Raatior](#)

I wrote 20 articles against it...they're all on that website [www.chuukstate.org](http://www.chuukstate.org).

This is one article so far against this resolution.

I can promise you that I will continue to ask questions



5:10am

[Robson Romolow](#)

In your article did you address to matt



5:10am

[Vid Raatior](#)

whether it's you or any of the state reps who represent the northwest

what is your point?



5:11am

[Robson Romolow](#)

I think you get my point



5:11am

[Vid Raatior](#)

If you think I would not challenge Matt, then you are wrong. I have

You think this is about Matt?

Robson, please grow up. You're in Congress.

I don't care who represents my region in congress, they will get the same questions if they are doing anything that is not for the good of the people



5:13am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Then why didn't you challenge him with an article addressed to him



5:13am

[Vid Raatior](#)

You mean, an article specific to Matt?



5:13am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Yes



5:14am

[Vid Raatior](#)

That's because Winiplat was the rep on the Chuuk Commision so I challenged him

If Matt was in your seat I would write exactly the same article

You're missing the point...what are your reasons for sponsoring the resolution?



5:15am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Well matt was our senator and was the champion of the movement



5:15am

[Vid Raatior](#)

What will the Northwest people you represent get out of it?



5:15am

[Robson Romolow](#)

You will come to know



5:16am

[Vid Raatior](#)

So you don't know yet?

Or you will not say?



5:16am

[Robson Romolow](#)

They will enjoy the out come



5:16am

[Vid Raatior](#)

What is the outcome?

You want them, all of us to be deported from the US?



5:17am

[Robson Romolow](#)

No that's not happening



5:17am

[Vid Raatior](#)

Well, without the COFA, we have no legal protection in the US so what's your solution without the COFA?



5:19am

[Robson Romolow](#)

No worry you will not be deported



5:19am

[Vid Raatior](#)

What will you tell the NW people in Guam and Hawaii as their protection against deportation if the COFA is terminated?

So you are now the Presidnet of the US?

How can you say that when the only reason we're able to live in the US is the COFA?



5:20am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Hehe I wish I am



5:20am

[Vid Raatior](#)

What's your plan for protecting FSMers in the US against deportation?



5:21am

[Robson Romolow](#)

You will come to know in due time



5:21am

[Vid Raatior](#)

You have no plan?



Why can't you tell the people what you have in mind?



5:22am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Its not the right time



5:22am

[Vid Raatior](#)

What is the right time?



5:23am

[Robson Romolow](#)

When our position is in a better shape



5:23am

[Vid Raatior](#)

What is the position?

You mean you are still shaping a position yet you've publicly called for a termination of the COFA?

And whose position is it? Northwest or Pete's [President Peter Christian]?



5:25am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Its part of the making

The whole federation



5:25am

[Vid Raatior](#)

How does all this fit into what you posted on your FB as your campaign platform?

Well, I've gotten word from your fellow congressmen that there is no official plan from them. So which plan is Christian pushing on you?



5:27am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Its the new voice, vision that is in the making



5:28am

[Vid Raatior](#)

I think it's terribly irresponsible to call for a termination of the very treaty that enabled so many NW people to thrive in the US. I am 100% sure that those young people who believe in the "new voice" will not be supportive of your stance on the COFA

because you're essentially preventing them from ever going to the US to work, get an education, etc. the same way we are enjoying under the COFA



5:28am

[Robson Romolow](#)

I dont want to repeat what have happened 20 some years ago



5:29am

[Vid Raatior](#)

and what is that?

the fact that congress squandered millions of public funds on "projects"?

20 some years ago, I might remind you, people of the Northwest region started to find ways to help their families by going to school, getting jobs in the US. So what is wrong with that?



5:30am

[Robson Romolow](#)

That's exactly what you want them to do



5:30am

[Vid Raatior](#)

You are requesting the president to stop all of that? That's hardly the voice of the new generation who want more opportunities

By sponsoring the nonsense resolution you are telling the young generation they will have no more opportunities like us

Those young generation and old will be deported from the US because of you, Figir, and Nethon, helped by the president

And you are still formulating a plan?

You are essentially putting a hole in the canoe to sink it but have no plan

to rescue all the people in your canoe

I still cannot believe and understand how your resolution will help your NW people in Guam and Hawaii...all the people who voted for you.



5:35am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Well if that's what you can see then you need to look deeper to see and i dont think you will ever see



5:36am

[Vid Raatior](#)

I'm asking you to provide the answers so we can see what you see, know what you know, understand what you understand. Right now it makes absolutely no sense



5:36am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Try harder so they voted for you



5:36am

[Vid Raatior](#)

OMG. You think this is about running for office?



5:37am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Like I said it will come in due time



5:37am

[Vid Raatior](#)

Let me tell you that I have high hopes for you as the voice of the new generation. I believe that you can still be the voice of the future. But this makes no sense

This is your opportunity to rise even more to be the leader that you are capable of being. So, please provide the answers to your resolution before it flares up in your electability

What is this "due time" thing?



5:39am

[Robson Romolow](#)

You will come to know and enjoy. And i can assure you and your followers that none of you will come and say thank you figir

Nethon and myself



5:40am

[Vid Raatior](#)

Don't you understand what you're doing...there is no more "due time" because you've publicly sponsored this resolution. It's now out there.

I'm sorry to tell you that without answers from the three of you, there is no reasonable way to convince any FSMer that this is good for them especially if they are in the US

The students in college are panicked and worried. How can you do this to them?



5:42am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Yes I know and that's exactly what i want to be outthere



5:42am

[Vid Raatior](#)

This "due time" that you keep saying...you've run out of time simply by going public with the CR

I dont understand your logic

How will it help you in 2017?



5:43am

[Robson Romolow](#)

You will come to know I can assure you



5:43am

[Vid Raatior](#)

with Guam, Hawaii, and mainland voters now that you're associated with the termination of COFA faction?

That is not reassuring at all

It's like a slap in NW voters faces for voting you into office and you turn around and want to put them into jeopardy



5:47am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Either it help me in 2017 or not dosent worry me. I could careless if am still electable as long as I do what I think its right weather it will be visible in a week or in 2 years



5:49am

[Vid Raatior](#)

OK well good for you. I wish you all the luck on this initiative. Again feel free to email me your answers or rationale for sponsoring this resolution. It's up to you. That's an open invitation to you.

For now I shall wait for the "due time" whenever that is and continue to ask questions of your colleagues in Congress for their understanding of this thing.



5:50am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Yes I will post it and email you



5:50am

[Vid Raatior](#)

You do need to know that some of your colleagues don't understand this either.

bye for now



5:52am

[Robson Romolow](#)

Well tell you what they do but they do not want to take the risk of this kind of outburst

Bye



5:52am

[Vid Raatior](#)

OK bye



## FB COMMENTS by Senator Robson Romolow

The following comments were made on Facebook in response to my article entitled, "Senator Romolow Wants to End Compact. Why?" For the sake of transparency I am posting the good senator's comments to help educate those who are waiting for his rationale for co-sponsoring the resolution to terminate the Compact. The comments were copied and posted here in its entirety.



[Robson Romolow](#) Thank you all for your comments and i hope people like vid and all dont rush to their own conclusion. Vid here is my # 691 922-9498 or 671 967 3274 if you want to know what behind the movement or the intention of the said resolution please feel free to call me...  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Yesterday at 2:55pm](#) · [Edited](#)



[Vid Raatior](#) Thank you, Senator [Robson Romolow](#), for coming online to reassure us. I can't afford a long distance call for what could be a very long conversation so may I respectfully suggest that you provide the rationale by email ([vid@raatior.com](mailto:vid@raatior.com)) so I can post it verbatim, as is, no edits on this website for everyone to know? I think everyone has the right to know and comment on your reasons. I have to say that It's hard to believe that there is a wiser motive behind this resolution since it is practically the same as the resolution introduced by now President Peter Christian back in 2011 (CR 17-60) during the 17th FSM Congress.  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Yesterday at 4:40pm](#)



[Robson Romolow](#) Vid did you know that There was a high level visit by usa to fsm and told us that u.s is not interested to renew the compact?  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [14 hrs](#)



[Vid Raatior](#) Yes, I do know, but he is hardly high level in the State Dept. And what he told the president is hardly the official USG communique...but our president has manipulated you, Figir, and Nethon to overreact to nothing. And that so called "high level" did not even meet with Congress; you only heard it from the president who met with him...and you are now claiming that he was an official of the US Government. Show the people the official communique from the President of the US and we'll believe it.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [13 hrs](#) · [Edited](#)



[Vid Raatior](#) I want to know why you sir [Robson Romolow](#) simply used the same resolution from 2011 and rebrand it as yours using old news (e.g. COMFSM funding cut from back then) to make seem like it's recent information. And why are you politicians not listening to your constituents who elected you into office? Why are you becoming the mouth of the Executive Branch (Christian sponsored the same resolution back in 2011)? Remember, the Legislative is supposed to provide a check and balance to counter the Executive Branch. Why didn't you indicate in your campaign platform that you intended to terminate the Compact which your constituents who are living in the US (Guam, Hawaii, mainland) are benefitting from?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [13 hrs](#) · [Edited](#)



[Robson Romolow](#) Hehe sorry that's what you think but i do my own work I don't get influenced by others

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [13 hrs](#)



[Vid Raatior](#) And that, sir, is the wrong attitude of a public servant. You don't get elected into office to do your "own work" and not "influenced by others." You should be influenced by the people you represent, not influence yourself for your own work. You need to meet with your people first to get your marching orders, not to the president of FSM. He did not elect you into office.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [13 hrs](#)



[Robson Romolow](#) Vid I do not get any order from president

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [13 hrs](#)



[Vid Raatior](#) [Robson Romolow](#) Sir, it's hard to believe the president is not manipulating you since you simply re-cycled the same resolution that he sponsored in 2011 (CR 17 - 61)...almost word for word, ideologically, and even used 2011 arguments with no basis on this so-called "high level" official representative meeting in 2015.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [13 hrs](#)

[Robson Romolow](#) Its now Thursday night and to my surprise no one have call. Looks like no one seems to care to know. [Sander Choffat](#) call me if you care to know

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [14 hrs](#)



[Vid Raatior](#) Sir, it's not the people's responsibility to call you and chase you down for answers. It's your responsibility to provide the answers to prevent unnecessarily worries, questions, calls. You are the people's representative. You, sir, must do your job to provide the answers and not sit around waiting for a few people who can afford long distance calls to call you. You need to write your answers and email them to me at [vid@raatior.com](mailto:vid@raatior.com) and I'll gladly post them for you if you cannot post them yourself on your own FB account. Technology is easy to use to communicate with your constituents publicly. Let's not have 1, 2 people call for their own answers. You've publicly declared by your sponsorship of the resolution to terminate the Compact; none of us were informed or sought for our views. Now the burden is on you as the people's public servant to do your job to answer for your own decision. Tirow wom.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [14 hrs](#) ·