

10 SEP 29 P5:03

SENATE
Proposed Senate Resolution No. 220

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE FEASIBILITY OF BANNING HIGH SULFUR DIESEL IN THE LIGHT OF
WORSENING AIR QUALITY IN METRO MANILA**

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources tests on air quality in Metro Manila in the first half of the year showed an increase in solid or liquid particles suspended in the air;

WHEREAS, in the first half of 2010, it increased to 163 micrograms (ug)/normal cubic meters (Ncm). In 2009, the total suspended particles (TSP) in the metropolis was 134 ug/Ncm, which was 48 percent above the normal standard. The normal standard is 90 ug/Ncm. Suspended particulates from vehicles consist of carbon monoxide and sulfur molecules that have mixed with dust;

WHEREAS, a 2007 World Bank report said air pollution was a major cause of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases in the Philippines, costing the country P7.6 billion annually. The World Bank report is bolstered by a study by the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine, which showed that more than 50 percent of the medicines sold in the country are for respiratory ailments;

WHEREAS, motor vehicles were the main source of pollution in the metropolis, accounting for as much as 80 percent of the pollution. Many vehicles that run in the streets of Metro Manila use reconditioned pre-chamber design diesel engines which use high sulfur diesel. These engines need the high sulfur to cushion the valve seats. However, the burning sulfur mix goes into the air. These reconditioned engines do not clog or need frequent filter cleansing as modern diesels where the particulate traps are meant to trap pollutants from getting into our lungs;

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve our air quality and one of the ways is to make sure that only clean diesel is sold in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in

aid of legislation, on the feasibility of banning high sulfur diesel in the light of worsening air quality in Metro Manila.



MANNY VILLAR

Senator