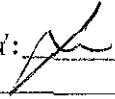


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



'11 AUG 11 P2:01

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 559

APPROVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE-PHILIPPINES' CALL TO REDUCE THE COUNTRY'S DEPENDENCE ON COAL FOR THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY NEEDS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 states, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, according to various news reports last 8 August 2011, the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature-Philippines called out the Philippine government for the country's increasing dependence on coal for its energy needs, and warned that this would become too costly for consumers;

WHEREAS, WWF-Philippines officials reportedly said that coal was expensive now and would get more expensive over the next twenty years, considering the acquisition, operations, and fuel costs;

WHEREAS, WWF-Philippines officials pointed out that as coal prices increase, the formula prescribed under the Renewable Energy Law mandates that feed-in-tariffs for renewable energy will decrease, resulting to cheaper renewable energy technologies and improve national competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the international environmentalist organization also reportedly said that an inordinate dependence on coal plants would only increase the cost of doing business in the Philippines, and that these costs would trickle down to the consumers;

WHEREAS, they allegedly noted that that the 'pass through' privilege enjoyed by new coal plants in the Philippines allows them to automatically pass these increasing fuel costs to Philippine power consumers, adding that Asian coal prices are generally higher than EU prices;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that WWF-Philippines officials said that since the coal sector was unregulated, there were "no caps on coal plant numbers, no prescribed installation targets, and no price limits;"

WHEREAS, WWF-Philippines officials reportedly argued that the government's approval of investments in coal-fired power plants in recent months was only a "quick fix" to address the projected energy shortfalls, citing Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras's recent statement that coal would continue to play a major role in the country's energy mix until the government could find better and relatively cheaper alternative power sources;

WHEREAS, while Congress has been successful in passing the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, legislation should ensure proper implementation of the laws it pass through close

coordination with the executive branch considering the energy department's stating coal's sustained primacy in the country's energy production;

WHEREAS, Congress should heed WWF's call to reduce the country's dependency on coal for it will definitely improve not only the energy sector but also positively impact the country's environment and our people's health, taking to account the negative effects coal-powered plants bring to the communities where they are situated;

WHEREFORE, to direct the Senate committee on energy, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines' call to reduce the country's dependence on coal for the country's energy needs.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt