

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 947

RECEIVED 

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ENTRY AND DUMPING OF GARBAGE AND WASTES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES INTO THE PHILIPPINES AND OUR TERRITORIES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING WHETHER PRESENT LEGAL SAFEGUARDS ARE SUFFICIENT AGAINST THE INDISCRIMINATE ENTRY OF SOLID WASTES AND OTHER FORMS OF HARMFUL TRASH INTO THE COUNTRY

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

4 WHEREAS, it is also a declared policy of the State under Republic Act No. 6969,
5 otherwise known as the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control
6 Act of 1990, to "regulate, restrict or prohibit the importation, manufacture, processing,
7 sale, distribution, use and disposal of chemical substances and mixtures that present
8 unreasonable risk and/or injury to health or the environment and to prohibit the entry,
9 even in transit, of hazardous and nuclear wastes and their disposal into the Philippine
10 territorial limits for whatever purpose";

11 WHEREAS, On July 21, 2018, a trash-loaded ship with over 5,100 metric tons
12 waste from South Korea arrived at Mindanao International Container Terminal;¹

¹ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/13/18/ph-not-a-trash-bin-govt-to-insist-return-of-garbage-shipment-to-south-korea>

1 WHEREAS, South Korean company Verde Soko II Industrial Corporation was the
2 consignee of the shipment, erroneously declared the importation as "plastic synthetic
3 flakes";²

4 WHEREAS, the South Korean company Verde Soko II Industrial Corporation,
5 which runs a waste recycling facility in Tagoloan town is not registered as an importer
6 of recyclable materials;³

7 WHEREAS, initial findings showed that the garbage shipment contained used
8 dextrose tubes, used diapers, batteries, bulbs, and electronic equipment;⁴

9 WHEREAS, the Philippines and South Korea as parties to the Basel Convention,
10 with the latter violating the said treaty when the said importation has been deemed
11 illegal traffic;

12 WHEREAS, the glaring impact of wastes especially to health is evident in the
13 town of Guiyu in Guangdong, China, dubbed as the Electronic Waste recycling capital of
14 the world;⁵

15 WHEREAS, Guiyu is home to about 5,500 businesses devoted to processing
16 discarded electronics, known as e-waste;⁶

17 WHEREAS, studies by the Shantou University Medical College reportedly revealed
18 that many children in Guiyu suffer from an extremely high rate of lead poisoning which
19 can affect the development of the brain and central nervous system;⁷

20 WHEREAS, the Philippines may suffer the same fate with Guiyu and may take the
21 unnecessary risks with impending health repercussions and environmental hazards if we
22 continue to allow such importation;

23 WHEREAS, considering the massive repercussions of allowing garbage
24 importations to persist in the country, it is incumbent upon the Congress to determine
25 whether there are sufficient laws restricting the indiscriminate entry and dumping of

² <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/11/11/1867725/environmental-group-seeks-ban-garbage-imports-after-south-korean-trash-shipment>

³ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/13/18/denr-vows-swift-action-on-garbage-shipment-from-s-korea>

⁴ <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2018/11/13/denr-garbage-shipment-south-korea.html>

⁵ <https://www.sutori.com/story/guiyu-china-e-waste-capital-of-the-world>

⁶ http://content.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1870162_1822148,00.html

⁷ <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/30/world/asia/china-electronic-waste-e-waste/>

1 solid waste and other forms of harmful trash into the Philippines and to formulate laws
2 imposing high penalties for the introduction into the country of all forms of trash;

3 WHEREAS, no country in the world deserves to be dumping ground of another
4 nation's filth;

5 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it hereby resolved by the Senate of the
6 Philippines, directing the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, to
7 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the entry and dumping of garbage and
8 wastes from different countries into the Philippines and our territories with the end in
9 view of determining whether present legal safeguards are sufficient against the
10 indiscriminate entry of solid wastes and other forms of harmful trash into the country.

11 Adopted,


GRACE POE