

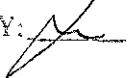
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'11 MAY -4 P2:39

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 452

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED HIGH MERCURY VAPOR LEVELS DETECTED IN TONDO, MANILA WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENFORCING MERCURY POLLUTION PREVENTION MEASURES TO ENSURE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whereas, the Philippine Constitution explicitly mandates the right to a healthy environment as provided in Sec. 16, Art. II, “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, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) contain mercury, a highly toxic metal;

Whereas, environmental groups have recently detected “disturbing levels of mercury vapor in lamp waste recycling stations” at Pier 18 where mercury-containing CFLs were being destroyed before disposal;

Whereas, Ban Toxics, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Health Care Without Harm and the EcoWaste Coalition tested 14 used CFLs in two separate breaking sites;

Whereas, the average reading for the tested lamps was 117.20 micrograms per cubic meter (mcg/m³) with one product registering mercury vapor of 502.40 mcg/m³;

Whereas, the permissible exposure limit for mercury vapor as set by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration is 100 mcg/m³;

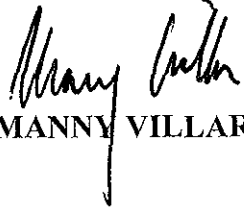
Whereas, a factsheet on mercury in CFLs published by the US Environmental Protection Authority (USEPA), revealed that exposure to mercury can affect the brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver, causing symptoms such as trembling hands, memory loss, among others;

Whereas, especially vulnerable to mercury exposure and contamination are pregnant women (including developing fetuses) and young children;

Whereas, mercury in products such as CFLs can be also released into the environment during breakage or when spent bulbs are improperly disposed such as by dumping or burning, causing the toxic metal to enter the environment and the food chain, with the potential to harm other living organisms, pose health risks to humans and the ecosystems: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and Local Government to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported high mercury vapor levels detected in Tondo, Manila with the end in view of enforcing mercury pollution prevention measures to ensure public health and safety.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR