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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 285

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senators Juan Miguel F. Zubiri and Richard J. Gordon

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RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT TO THE DOMESTIC SUGAR INDUSTRY OF THE INCREASING IMPORTATION OF HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP AND THE NEED TO REVIEW POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ON THE IMPORTATION OF SAID SWEETENER TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF OUR SMALL FARMERS, AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES AND THE DOMESTIC SUGAR INDUSTRY**

**WHEREAS**, high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) is a processed sugar substitute derived from cornstarch and is commonly used in the food and beverage industry as a replacement or in combination with table sugar or sucrose;

**WHEREAS**, HFCS is not produced domestically, thus industrial users of said processed sweetener and preservative imported over 766,890 metric tons from the years 2011 to 2016 and used the same in the formulation of commercial foodstuff such as carbonated drinks, cookies, breakfast cereals, packaged pastries, candy bars, condiments such as ketchup, ice creams, fruit juices, etc.;

**WHEREAS**, since the HFCS is a cheaper alternative to using sucrose, a lot of food and beverage manufacturing companies shifted to using said sweetener which resulted in the continued decline in local sugar prices, in fact according to the Sugar Regulatory Administration's price monitor, prices fell from Php1,800.40 per 50-kg bag in October 2016 to Php1,784.92 in January 2017 registering a drop of Php15.48 per bag of sugar;

**WHEREAS**, not only is the unabated importation of HFCS driving down sugar prices, it also affects the livelihood of a lot of farmers and the sugar industry as a whole as the continued plunge of prices of sugar has a negative effect on the industry making it hard for sugar producers and small farmers to recoup their expenses;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to conduct an impact assessment of the effects of the massive importation of HFCS on our local economy more importantly on our sugar industry as the continued drop in prices of our local sugar will eventually trickle down to the millions of Filipinos who depend on sugar for survival;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to look into this matter to address this pressing issue that plagues our sugar industry, a major contributor in the country's GDP, and propose possible remedial legislation to safeguard the interests of concerned stakeholders;

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Senate of the Philippines direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the impact to the domestic sugar industry of the increasing importation of high fructose corn syrup and the need to review policies of the government on the importation of said sweetener to protect the interests of our small farmers, agrarian reform beneficiaries and the domestic sugar industry.

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized initial 'R' followed by a series of vertical and horizontal strokes, and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.