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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 787

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

1
2 **URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**
3 **RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON**
4 **RECENT REPORTS THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF THE LARGEST**
5 **CONTRIBUTORS OF PLASTIC WASTE TO THE WORLD'S OCEANS, WITH THE**
6 **OBJECTIVES OF FORMULATING AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING**
7 **ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, AND CONSTITUTING AND CONVENING THE**
8 **JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CREATED UNDER**
9 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9003 OR THE "ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE**
10 **MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000", AND FOR OUR COUNTRY TO TAKE A LARGER**
11 **ROLE IN REDUCING THE SAME NOT ONLY IN OUR JURISDICTION BUT**
12 **ALSO AROUND THE WORLD**

13 WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution directs the
14 State to "...protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful
15 ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

16 WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9003, or the "*Ecological Solid Waste*
17 *Management Act of 2000*" declares it a State policy to "...adopt a systematic,
18 comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program" which shall
19 "...ensure the proper segregation, collection, transport, storage, treatment and
20 disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adoption of the best
21 environmental practice in ecological waste management excluding incineration";

22 WHEREAS, in the case of *Oposa v Factoran* (G.R. No. 101083), the Supreme
23 Court stated that the "rhythm and harmony of nature" contemplated in the

1 Constitution includes the judicious disposition of our natural resources so that that
2 they will be equitably accessible to the present as well as future generations;

3 WHEREAS, according to a recent report¹, 8 million tons of plastic waste is
4 thrown into the world's oceans every year- equivalent to one garbage truck of plastic
5 being tipped into the sea every minute every day;

6 WHEREAS, the Philippines was cited as one of the top contributors to plastic
7 waste in the world, after China and Indonesia, and followed by Vietnam, Sri Lanka,
8 Thailand, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria and Bangladesh;

9 WHEREAS, a related report² estimated that the Philippines wastes 6,237,653
10 kg (6875.84 tons) of plastic per day;

11 WHEREAS, because of the huge amounts of plastic waste in the oceans, it has
12 become common for sea creatures such as fish, whales and other marine mammals,
13 sharks and other cartilaginous fish, sea turtles, and even seagulls to be entangled in
14 plastic waste or to ingest them, which often leads to serious injury or even death³;

15 WHEREAS, the same report also noted that the five biggest contributors to
16 plastic wastes in the oceans- of which the Philippines is included- are also countries
17 where "waste management is at patchy";

18 WHEREAS, it cannot be denied that waste management in our country is still
19 in a rudimentary state- it was reported two years ago that fifty local government
20 units were investigated for noncompliance with the provisions of R.A. No. 9003;

21 WHEREAS, it is clear that we must hold ourselves accountable for our
22 collective failure to implement R.A. 9003 must take a larger role in reducing plastic
23 wastes in our jurisdiction;

24 WHEREAS, this is an opportunity for the Philippines to take a leading role in
25 the reduction of plastic wastes not only within our jurisdiction but also around the
26 world- an advocacy which has been taken up by civil society groups and non-
27 government organizations in the country;

¹ United Nations Environment Program, "Beat Plastic Pollution". Retrieved from
<https://www.unenvironment.org/interactive/beat-plastic-pollution/>

² Jambeck, Geyer *et.al.* "Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean" Retrieved from
https://www.iswa.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Calendar_2011_03_AMERICANA/Science-2015-Jambeck-768-71_2_.pdf

³ 2015 Ocean Conservancy Report. Retrieved from <https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2015-Ocean-Conservancy-ICC-Report.pdf>

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WHEREAS, Section 60 of R.A. No. 9003 creates a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of the Act and its objectives;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on recent reports that the Philippines is one of the largest contributors of plastic waste to the world's oceans, with the objectives of formulating amendments to existing environmental laws, and constituting and convening the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee created under Republic Act no. 9003 or the "*Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*", and for our country to take a larger role in reducing the same not only in our jurisdiction but also around the world.

Adopted,



GRACE POE