DEFICE CONTRACTOR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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P.S Res. 1120

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Introduced by: SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO INQUIRE INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTED BY TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES AGAINST THEIR SUBSCRIBERS, IN VIOLATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FRANCHISES

Whereas, As of December 2007, there were more than 57 million subscribers of the 3 giant telecommunications companies;

Whereas, the 3 biggest cellular mobile telecommunications players – Globe, Smart and Digitel (Sun) registered gross revenues of P149.5 billion in 2007 alone;

Whereas, these telecommunications companies offer among others the following services: calls, SMS, MMS, GPRS, 3G, and mobile banking;

Whereas, according to industry players, the current volume of text messages per day reaches 2 billion or 16,200 text messages per second;

Whereas, according to Republic Act 7229, otherwise known as the Act Approving the Merger Between Globe Mackay Cable and Radio Corporation and Clavecilla Radio System and the Consequent Transfer of the Franchise of Clavecilla Radio System Granted under Republic Act No. 402, as amended to Globe Mackay Cable and Radio Corporation, Extending the Life of said Franchise, and Repealing Certain Sections of Republic Act No. 402, as approved on March 19, 1992;

Whereas, according to Republic Act 7294, otherwise known as the Act Granting Smart Information Technologies, Inc. (Smart) a franchise to establish, install, maintain, lease and operate integrated telecommunications/computer/electronic services, and stations throughout the Philippines for public domestic and international telecommunications, and for other purposes lapsed into law on March 27, 1992;

Whereas, according to Republic Act No. 7678, a legislative franchise authorizing the grantee (Digital Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. [DIGITEL] or SUN) to install, operate and maintain telecommunications systems, this time, throughout the Philippines which was enacted by the Congress of the Philippines on 17 February 1994;

Whereas, there is a growing clamor from different prepaid subscribers as regards the pernicious confiscation of unused load credits, putting expiration dates on the prepaid subscribers load credits, whether the subscriber use it or not and excessive and unnecessary advertisements by these telecommunications companies, among others;

Whereas, if such claims be proven as against these telecommunications provider, it would be tantamount to a gross violation of their franchise;

Whereas, since franchise is merely a privilege granted by the State through Congress, any violation thereof, the State may withdraw such bestowed privilege;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate to direct the Committee on Public Services to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the nefarious activities committed by telecommunication companies against their subscribers, in violation of their respective franchises.

Adopted,

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.