

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

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 286

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT
AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPOSITION OF
COMMERCIALY-USED "BIODEGRADABLE" OR OXO-DEGRADABLE PLASTIC
BAGS, SACKS, AND PACKAGING FOR REPORTEDLY CONTAINING CHEMICAL
ADDITIVES THAT MAY BE HARMFUL TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Article 11, Section 16 of the Constitution states that, "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, to save our ailing environment, many business establishments have engaged in the use of biodegradable materials to minimize the production and utilization of plastic bags;

WHEREAS, according to news reports, biodegradable or oxo-degradable plastic bags, sacks, and packaging have chemical additive components that require an inordinate length of time and long exposure to natural elements, such as sunlight and water, for disintegration;

WHEREAS, upon break down of said biodegradable plastic bags, small particles of the remnant plastic still remain in our soil and waters;

WHEREAS, according to a study on the environmental impacts of oxo-degradable plastics made by the Department of Materials of Loughborough University in the United Kingdom, the plastics are "neither suitable for conventional recycling methods, due to the chemical additives, nor suitable for composting, due to the plastic not breaking down fast enough";

WHEREAS, there is a need to probe this matter for the institution of proper measures to minimize the use of non-decomposable plastic bags and prevent further clogging of our drainage systems, a significant cause of flooding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the composition of commercially-used "biodegradable" or oxo-degradable plastic bags, sacks, and packaging for reportedly containing chemical additives that may be harmful to our environment.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator