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SENATE

P.S Res. No. 1561

Introduced by Senator Teofisto "TG" Guingona III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF CONSUMING ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLED FOOD AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THAT ARE BEING SOLD IN THE LOCAL MARKET WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article XVI provides that the State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products;

WHEREAS, Toward these ends, Republic Act No 10611 otherwise known as the *Food Safety Act of 2013* was enacted to maintain a farm to fork food safety regulatory system that ensures a high level of food safety, promotes fair trade and advances the global competitiveness of Philippine foods and food products;

WHEREAS, It has been reported that allegedly smuggled food agricultural products are now being sold in the local markets;

WHEREAS, Not having gone through the proper quarantine examination and food safety inspections, smuggled food agricultural products pose a serious threat to public health, on top of adversely affecting the livelihood of local farmers and depriving the government of revenues,

WHEREAS, There are suspicions that smuggled vegetables such as carrots and brocolli contain a high level of preservatives such as formaldehyde or fomalin to make them appear fresh and new;

WHEREAS, Public health institutions have classified formaldehyde as a probable human carcinogen under conditions of unusually high or prolonged exposure, and in some studies associated with certain types of cancers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Philippine Senate directs Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation into the health hazards of consuming allegedly smuggled food agricultural products that are being sold in the local market, with the end in view of improving food safety and protecting public health.

Adopted,



TEODORO "TG" GUINGONA III