



SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 217

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO LOOK INTO THE REGULATION OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN FERTILIZERS AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE USE OF ORGANIC FERTILIZER IN THE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

- 1 WHEREAS, Section 15, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The
2 State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
3 consciousness among them";
- 4 WHEREAS, Section 16, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution further provides that
5 "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and
6 healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";
- 7 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10068 otherwise known as the "Organic
8 Agriculture Act of 2010" provided for the development and promotion of organic
9 agriculture in the Philippines;
- 10 WHEREAS, under the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, it is the declared policy
11 of the State to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of
12 organic agriculture in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the
13 fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and destruction of the
14 environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, further protect the health of
15 farmers, consumers, and the general public, and save on imported farm inputs;
- 16 WHEREAS, the continuous importation and use of hazardous chemical
17 substances in fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides, and other farm inputs has long been
18 a source of protests and debates within the agriculture sector;

1 WHEREAS, the usage of these farm inputs has not only caused environmental
2 degradation and pollution that resulted to the decrease in the soil's fertility and the
3 destruction of aquatic and semi-aquatic life, but has also caused various ailments to
4 farmers and their animals as well as to the consumers of agricultural produce;

5 WHEREAS, several studies have already documented the contamination and
6 impact of agrochemical residues in soils, and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
7 including coastal marine systems, and their toxic effects on humans and nonhuman
8 biota;

9 WHEREAS, the continued use of hazardous chemical substances in fertilizers is
10 being related to cancer and other diseases in humans;

11 WHEREAS, the country's agricultural input market on fertilizers and pesticides
12 is being dominated by foreign agrochemical products;

13 WHEREAS, such agrochemical products are the subject of recent litigation cases
14 in the US, particularly involving the US biotech chemical corporation Monsanto which
15 has been ordered to pay a cancer-stricken groundskeeper for having been exposed to
16 its weed killer chemical product, Roundup;

17 WHEREAS, the same biotech chemical corporation has been demanded by the
18 Vietnam government to pay compensation to millions of innocent Vietnamese that fell
19 victim to the cancer-causing defoliant called Agent Orange sprayed over 30,000 miles
20 of land in South Vietnam by the US Army;

21 WHEREAS, there is a need to regulate the influx of hazardous chemical
22 substances in fertilizers being used in the country and fully develop and promote
23 organic agriculture in the Philippines: Now, Therefore be it

24 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the proper Senate
25 Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, look into the regulation of
26 hazardous chemical substances in fertilizers and the intensification of the use of
27 organic fertilizer in the country's agricultural sector.

28
29 *Adopted.*


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.