OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

7 JUL -2 1/11

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 308

HECEIVED RY:

#### INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

A few years ago, majority of our legislators were convinced that the cost of power will significantly go down with the passage of R.A. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA).

Today, power consumers suffer under the ever-increasing cost of electricity. Now, in the House of Representatives, the very same proponents of R.A. 9136 are presently pushing for the amendment of the EPIRA law due to the continuous and rapid rise in the price of power, which may reach unmanageable levels.

Thus, it has become obvious that this law is flawed. Our leadership was pushed by external pressure to fast track an ill-conceived piece of legislation.

The revelation of the former Administrator of the National Electrification Administration that a P2.5Million "payola" to Congressmen was given to ensure the passage of EPIRA is a serious charge. Earlier, it was reported that some legislators allegedly admitted that they had been coerced into approving a half-baked law, leaving several contentious issued unresolved.

If these charges are true, then we have, indeed, reached our lowest point in the annals of Congress, where laws are dictated by foreign agencies like the *Financial Action Task Force* (FATF) and now, by financial consideration. We must ease the burden on the masses and prevent their sufferings under behest and unjust laws.

This bill seeking to repeal the EPIRA is the only recourse for us to start all over again and scrutinize all provisions that burden the people.

In view of the foregoing considerations early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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### AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

**SECTION 1**. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, Republic Act Numbered 9136 entitled "An Act Ordaining Reforms in the Electric Power Industry, Amending for the Purpose Certain Laws and for Other Purposes" is hereby repealed.

**SEC 2**. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication.

Approved,