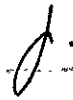


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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**A RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN  
AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DETERIORATING WATER QUALITY OF THE  
LAGUNA LAKE THAT RESULTS IN LOSSES OF SOURCES OF LIVELIHOOD  
FOR FISHERFOLK FAMILIES LIVING WITHIN THE LAGUNA DE BAY REGION.**

*Whereas*, the Laguna de Bay Region is recognized as the fastest growing economic corridor in the country today, being a region that covers 14 cities and 46 municipalities in the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Metro Manila;

*Whereas*, the Laguna Lake provides a variety of uses to the surrounding communities and affords them food, transportation, irrigation, floodwater reservoir, and industrial cooling, among others;

*Whereas*, a law was passed in 1996 called Republic Act No. 4850, which created the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), with the aim to promote and accelerate the development and balanced growth of the Laguna Lake area and the surrounding provinces, cities, and towns referred to as the region, within the context of the national and regional plans and policies for social and economic development and to carry out the development of the Laguna Lake region with due regard and adequate provisions for environmental management and control, preservation of the quality of human life and ecological systems, and the prevention of undue ecological disturbances, deterioration and pollution;

*Whereas*, Section 4, paragraph (a) of the same law tasks the LLDA to make a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural resources and potentialities of the Laguna Lake region particularly its social and economic conditions, hydrologic characteristics, power potentials, scenic and tourist spots, regional problems;

*Whereas*, Section 4, paragraph (e) of the same law mandates LLDA to engage in *agriculture, industry, commerce, or other activities within the region which may be necessary or directly contributory to the socio-economic development of the region, and, for this purposes, whether by itself or in cooperation with private persons or entities, to organize, finance, invest in, and operate subsidiary corporations: Provided, That the Authority shall engage only, unless public interest requires otherwise, in those activities as are in the nature of new ventures or are clearly beyond the scope, capacity,*

or interest or private enterprises due to consideration of geography, technical or capital requirements, returns on investment, and risk;

*Whereas*, Section 4, paragraph (j) of the same law tasks LLDA to, the provisions of existing laws notwithstanding, to engage in fish production and other aqua-culture projects in Laguna de Bay and other bodies of water within its jurisdiction and in pursuance thereof to conduct studies and make experiments, whenever necessary, with the collaboration and assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, with the end in view of improving present techniques and practice;

*Whereas*, Section 4, paragraph (p) of the same law requires LLDA to undertake studies on the improvement and maintenance of the desirable lake water quality of Laguna de Bay, and in pursuance thereof, prepare a water quality management program on a continuing basis, subject to the approval of the NEDA, which the Authority shall carry out with the assistance and support of all national and local government units involved in water quality management;

*Whereas*, according to LLDA updates, the Laguna Lake is a life support system for more than 10 million living in its watershed. It also notes fisheries, both open water fishing and aquaculture, as the most important and dominant use of the lake, producing 85,000 metric tons of fish per year and supporting an estimated 338,415 metric tons of fish in the open waters with approximately 28,000 fisherfolk families depending on this livelihood;

*Whereas*, according to the Laguna de Bay Region Environment Monitor in Population and Economic Activities of 2006, fishery is an important economic activity in the lake region given that the water quality of the lake is mostly Class C, and the lake's resources as one of the richest in the world;

*Whereas*, the same publication cites the Philippine Millenium Ecosystem Assessment Report of 2005 that total fish production in a 16-year period (1980 to 1986) has exhibited a decreasing trend and that the decline was attributable to factors such as decreased net primary productivity, illegal fishing, algal bloom, and pollution, among others;

*Whereas*, according to the same monitor report, results in ecology model evaluation shows that fish production is likely to decrease even more within the next 25 years without intervention due to the low oxygen levels following increased nutrient levels attributable to pollution and other factors;

*Whereas*, other studies allege that Laguna Lake is a catch basin of effluents originating from domestic, agricultural and industrial resources;

*Whereas*, the Laguna de Bay Environment Monitor of 2006 asserts that the implementation of Solid Waste Management in the region is still insufficient to meet the standards as prescribed by the R.A. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act;

*Whereas*, the same publication maintained that the Municipal Environmental Assessment Reports (2005) covering half of micro-watersheds in the Laguna de Bay region has indicated that in general, households are still the biggest contributor of solid wastes in the region;

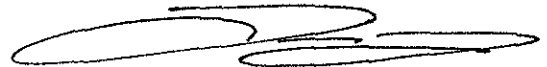
*Whereas*, there is a need to determine whether the Laguna Lake Development Authority, based on its charter, has adequate powers to address the rapid environmental degradation of the Laguna Lake and the threat to the livelihood of thousands of settlers in the Laguna de Bay Region;

*Whereas*, there is a necessity to identify immediate steps to address concerns that the lake could vanish in as short as five years unless the government resorts to more aggressive intervention;

*Whereas*, Congress, as part of its oversight functions, must scrutinize the implementation of existing laws in the light of the alleged rapid decay of the Philippines' largest lake that may affect millions of families, especially the poor and their major sources of livelihood.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Senate Committees on Economic Affairs, and Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the deteriorating water quality of the Laguna Lake that results in losses of sources of livelihood for fisherfolk families living within the Laguna de Bay Region.

Adopted,



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator