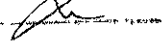


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

5 MAY 26 2016

SENATE  
PS RES. NO. 420

RECEIVED BY 

**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO**

**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACTS OF COAL POWER PLANTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS TO CALL FOR THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO ADOPT A PROGRAM PROMOTING LESS DEPENDENCE ON COAL AND A SHIFT TOWARDS RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**Whereas**, coal is the world's most plentiful fossil fuel but is the dirtiest, most carbon intensive of all fossil fuels.

**Whereas**, according to the United Nations Environment Program, coal emits around 1.7 times as much carbon per unit of energy when burned, as does natural gas, and 1.25 times as much as oil.

**Whereas**, according to US Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) data, annual carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants are greater than the emissions from all cars, trucks, planes, trains, and other forms of transportation combined. One 500 megawatt coal-fired power plant produces the annual global warming emissions equivalent to the emissions of roughly 600,000 cars.

**Whereas**, the use and mining of coal have brought about negative impacts on the environment. The combustion process of coal releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, causing climatic warming in the earth's atmosphere. The combustion of coal is also a source of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides, which are harmful to humans and are mostly responsible for acid rain. Coal-fired power plants are also one of the largest sources of human-generated mercury, chromium, lead and arsenic pollution.

**Whereas**, coal has also brought negative effects on health. According to the American Lung Association, 24,000 people a year die prematurely because of pollution from coal-fired power plants. Also, every year 38,000 heart attacks, 12,000 hospital admissions and an additional 550,000 asthma attacks result from power plant pollution.

**Whereas**, in the Philippines, Dr. Lynn Panganiban, a professor at the UP College of Medicine-Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, cited the journal Environmental Research published in January 2007 which stated that "air pollution from coal-fired power station, although not exceeding local pollution standards, had a negative effect on children's lung function development." She also warned that mercury, or the substances emitted by coal-fired power plants, could cause birth defects and mental retardation among babies.

**Whereas**, we, as a nation, have long been dependent on coal as a source of energy. According to the Department of Energy, coal is used mainly in the generation of electricity and manufacture of cement. Coal consumption for 2006 is 9.5 MMT, 73% of for power generation, 22.5% for cement production and 3.75% for other industrial operations.

**Whereas**, at present, coal-fired thermal power plants are the number one source of electricity and account for a total of 3,967 MW or 25% of the country's total installed powered generating capacity.

**Whereas**, coal deposits are scattered over the Philippines, the largest of which is in Semirara Island, Antique. There are currently eight coal-fired power plants in the country, with a total capacity of 4,177 MW, or about 26.1% of the Philippines' installed capacity. Together, the coal plants already account for as much as 36% of the emissions from the energy sector.

**Whereas**, the government currently has at least nine coal-fired plants lined up for construction or expansion: the 300 MW expansion in Pagbilao, Quezon, 100 MW in Concepcion, Iloilo, 165 MW in Iloilo City, 200 MW each in Naga and Toledo Cities in Cebu, 300 MW expansion in Masinloc, Zambales, 300 MW in Olongapo, Zambales, 150 MW in Sultan Kudarat, and 200 MW in Saranggani.

**Whereas**, majority of the country's coal requirements are sourced from importation, primarily from Indonesia, China, and Australia. As of 2005, total importation reached 6.3 MMT, 50% of which came from Indonesia, 33% from China, 10% from Australia and 7% from Vietnam.


**Whereas**, in the interest of sustainable development and towards a self-reliant energy sector, to cope with the demands of power and the reality of climate change, the Philippine government should adopt a long-term plan utilizing indigenous, eco-friendly sources of energy and lessening dependence on coal-fired power plants.

**Whereas**, the Philippine government must reduce dependence on coal plants by adopting an energy program that would phase out over a period of time the utilization of power from coal plants and would no longer allow the construction or expansion of coal plants in the country.

**Whereas**, the Philippine government must adhere to a paradigm shift towards renewable energy such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat, which may be naturally replenished. Renewable energy technologies now available for harnessing range from solar power, wind power, hydroelectricity/micro hydro, biomass and biofuels for transportation.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Natural Resources inquire, in aid of legislation, on the impacts of coal power plants to the environment as well as to call for the Executive Department to adopt a program promoting less dependence on coal and a shift towards renewable energy.

*Adopted,*

  
PIA S. CAYETANO  
Senator