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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1375

RECEIVED BY



INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE SENATOR MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED POWER SHORTAGE SITUATION IN 2010 FORECASTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROPOSING MEASURES THAT WILL CUSHION ITS IMPACT ON INDUSTRIES AND PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM AN IMPENDING POWER CRISIS.

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article XVI of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products”;

WHEREAS, Section 2(d) of Republic Act No. 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, declares that it is the policy of the State to “ensure the quality, reliability, security and affordability of the supply of electric power”;

WHEREAS, on 16 September 2009, several news reports quoted Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes as saying, in his budget presentation before the House of Representatives, that a power shortage might occur in the country next year and that committed power generation projects are expected to produce only 1,020 megawatts (MW), falling short of the required additional capacity of 4,100 MW; hence, there might be a need to grant emergency powers to the President to address this problem;

WHEREAS, a 18 September 2009 Business Mirror news article reported that the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (Pippa), through its President, Ernesto Pantangco, disputed the Energy Secretary’s claims, pointing out that there would be enough power supply by next year, as evident in the Visayas with the expected commercial operation of the Global Business Power Corp.’s 250 MW coal-fired power plant and another 100 MW coal-fired power plant by Korea Electric Power Corporation;

WHEREAS, such claims of a critical power supply situation are dangerous and conditions the mind of the people with an alarmist, doomsday scenario and further sends the wrong signals to private corporations and consumers, since power supply is a sensitive parameter for investors;

WHEREAS, there is a need to verify the veracity of these reports and determine the power supply situation of the country in order to come up with measures to protect consumers and crucial Philippine industries should a power crisis be, in fact, impending.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Trade and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Energy to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged power shortage situation in 2010 forecasted by the Department of Energy, with the end in view of proposing measures that will cushion its impact on industries and protect consumers from an impending power crisis.

Adopted,


MAR ROXAS
Senator