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SENATE

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL AND OTHER ALLIED AGENCIES TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM HEALTH HAZARDS POSED BY MOUNDS OF UNCOLLECTED GARBAGE AS A RESULT OF NATURAL CALAMITIES

*Whereas*, tropical storm Ondoy, which struck the country last 26 September, has left in its wake an overwhelming amount of garbage that remains uncollected to this day;

*Whereas*, many communities and residents are exposed to potentially hazardous elements because disaster debris and waste are mixed, mud-filled and not easy to segregate;

*Whereas*, disaster debris includes household debris (appliances, furniture, household goods), building debris (wood, concrete, metal, drywall), and vegetative debris (tree limbs, garden and farm wastes);

*Whereas*, according to Eco-Waste Coalition, some components of the waste stream require a different mode of retrieval and management to prevent the exposure of residents and waste workers, especially child waste pickers, to toxins that can harm human health and pollute the environment;

*Whereas*, the usual practice of merely hauling disaster debris and waste altogether to a dumpsite or landfill is totally ineffective in safeguarding the people and environment from harmful bacteria and chemicals;

*Whereas*, rubbish and wreckage from disasters contain "problem waste streams" such as asbestos, treated wood, putrescibles, electronics, fuels, lubricants, refrigerants and chemicals that require special handling and disposal;

*Whereas*, electronic waste such as computer and television sets, washing machines, compact fluorescent lamps and other common electrical devices and appliances contain a range of toxic chemicals such as heavy metals (cadmium, lead, mercury), persistent organic pollutants (brominated flame retardants, polychlorinated biphenyls) and other chemicals of concern;

*Whereas*, in addition, “the improper retrieval of copper wires, metal scraps and other recyclables can expose waste workers to a cocktail of toxic chemicals during the manual processing that can damage human health and also pollute the air, soil, and the surface and groundwater”;

*Whereas*, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), which is tasked to coordinate disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation activities, must also endeavor to devise a plan to manage disaster debris and waste to avoid health and environmental contamination from haphazard dumping and improper recycling: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the National Disaster Coordinating Council and other allied agencies to formulate a comprehensive disaster debris management plan to protect the public from health hazards posed by mounds of uncollected garbage as a result of natural calamities.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator