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SENATE
PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION **1449**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE DUMPING OF CANADIAN TRASH
INTO THE COUNTRY, AND INSTITUTE MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT AGAINST TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND ENSURE
ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Whereas, there are reports that sometime July 2013, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized container vans allegedly containing "heterogeneous plastic scrap materials" shipped into the country from Canada;

Whereas, upon inspections made by the BOC and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), it was revealed that the shipment contained mixed waste, consisting of non-recyclable plastics, used adult diapers, broken bottles and glasses, waste paper, household/kitchen waste, contrary to the earlier declaration that the waste materials consist of recyclable scrap;

Whereas, news accounts reveal that "in a statement on March 15, the Canadian government declined demands to ship back the wastes, saying the case is a "private commercial matter involving a Canadian company and its Philippine partner" (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 21 July, 2015, page A4);

Whereas, these freight containers containing trash, originally stored in the Manila Port Area, were transported to and the trash were later on dumped in Capas, Province of Tarlac, in a privately owned landfill operated by Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation (MCWMC), a reported contractor of the BOC;

Whereas, these Canadian garbage, emitting foul smell and leaking unidentified substance, which could possibly contain toxic and noxious materials, have been the source of myriad of health problems for the constituents living in the nearby area of the landfill who incessantly complain of being sickly and frail;

Whereas, the Sanggunian Panlalawigan ng Tarlac, through a Board Resolution, registered their vehement protest to the MCWMC and the BOC, and ordered a stop to any further waste disposal, and refrain from making Tarlac a "dumping ground of foreign trash";

Whereas, waste disposal in our country is clearly regulated by Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Republic Act 6969, the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act, not to mention the Constitutional duty of the State to protect and promote the peoples' right to health, and the right to a balanced and healthful ecology;

Whereas, equally important to consider is the Basel Convention on transboundary movement of hazardous and other waste, which was ratified by the Philippines in 1993, and Canada in 1992, and which aims to observe the fundamental principles of environmentally sound waste management;

Whereas, it is crucial to scrutinize the policy of the government in allowing the foreign-sourced trash into local landfills in order to assess and enhance viable mechanisms to protect our people from the health perils brought about by the gargantuan rubbish literally thrown into our own backyard, at the expense of our people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee, to investigate, in aid of legislation, the dumping of Canadian trash into the country, and institute measures to protect public health and environment against toxic and hazardous materials, and ensure environmentally sound waste management

Adopted,


FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.