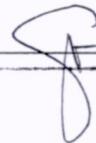


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**  
P.S. Res. No. 75

'19 AUG -6 P5:33

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO STUDY THE PROPOSED GUIMARAS-ILOILO-NEGROS OCCIDENTAL PROJECT, IN PARTICULAR ITS FINANCIAL COSTS AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE GREATER CONNECTIVITY AMONG THE PROVINCES OF WESTERN VISAYAS, AND TO PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR FILIPINO PRODUCTS**

1 WHEREAS, Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution directs the  
2 State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and  
3 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that  
4 provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living,  
5 and an improved quality of life for all;

6 WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XII of the Constitution further directs the State to  
7 develop all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country to ensure equitable  
8 distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of  
9 goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an  
10 expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the  
11 underprivileged;

12 WHEREAS, the provisions of our fundamental law cited above clearly imply that  
13 promoting the development of all regions of the country, in particular those far from

1 urban centers, is essential to ensure that every Filipino lives in a decent and fulfilling  
2 manner;

3 WHEREAS, developing connectivity, whether through land, air, or sea, transport  
4 is crucial to ensuring the rapid growth of all corners of the country;

5 WHEREAS, this is especially true because our archipelagic geography is a key  
6 developmental challenge, as it prevents the easy facilitation of trade as well as  
7 movement of capital and human resources;

8 WHEREAS, one of the best examples of geography as a developmental constraint  
9 is in Western Visayas (Region VI);

10 WHEREAS, Region VII is composed of six provinces: Aklan, Antique, Capiz,  
11 Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental, and of these six provinces, it can be said that  
12 Guimaras has the most disadvantage due to its small size as well as lack of reliable  
13 connectivity to the main island of Panay;

14 WHEREAS, Guimaras is famous for its mangoes, which are the sweetest in the  
15 world, and many products which are derived from the fruit serve as a source of  
16 livelihood for its residents;

17 WHEREAS, the local enterprises in Guimaras need better and greater access to  
18 local and international markets, as well as to technical and financial assistance, in order  
19 to improve productivity;

20 WHEREAS, better connectivity to Iloilo and Negros Occidental is thus an  
21 important key to furthering development of Guimaras;

22 WHEREAS, there have been past proposals to connect Guimaras to both of the  
23 provinces mentioned;

24 WHEREAS, according to news articles, a study by the Department of Public  
25 Works and Highways in 2010 estimated the Guimaras-Iloilo-Negros bridge project to  
26 cost P28.496 billion spanning a total of 13.16 kilometers. This includes 3.6 kilometers  
27 for the Panay-Guimaras bridge at P9.438 billion and a 9.56-km bridge to connect  
28 Guimaras and Negros costing P19.08 billion;

1           WHEREAS, based on this projected length, a bridge will be constructed to  
2 connect Leganes town in Iloilo to Buenavista town in Guimaras, while another bridge  
3 will link San Lorenzo town in Guimaras to Pulupandan town in Negros;

4           WHEREAS, plans for the Guimaras-Iloilo-Negros Occidental bridge have existed  
5 since at least the 1990's but have never pushed through;

6           WHEREAS, the lack of a bridge connecting the island of Guimaras has deterred  
7 its economy to reach its full potential and has endangered the lives of residents as well  
8 since boat trips are at the mercy of the weather;

9           WHEREAS, there is a need to revive the Guimaras-Iloilo-Negros Occidental  
10 project because it will clearly benefit all of the provinces involved;

11           WHEREAS, there is also a need to closely scrutinize the project as regard its  
12 funding source and implementers in order to ensure that it will be undertaken according  
13 to the laws of the country;

14           NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the  
15 Philippines, to direct the Committee on Public Works to conduct an inquiry, in aid of  
16 legislation, to study the proposed Guimaras-Iloilo-Negros Occidental Project, in  
17 particular its financial costs and long-term economic benefits, in order to promote  
18 greater connectivity among the provinces of Western Visayas, and to provide better  
19 access to local and international markets for Filipino products.

20           *Adopted.*

  
**GRACE POE**