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SENATE P.S. Resolution No. 144 HECEIVED BY :\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara

## RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE LOGGING OPERATIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF AURORA AND QUEZON, RESPECTIVELY

WHEREAS, records of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) indicate that the appropriate Integrated Forest Management Agreements (IFMAs), Timber License Agreements (TLAs), and/or Special Private Land Timber License (SPLTL) have been issued for the utilization and development of forest areas in the provinces of Aurora and Quezon, respectively, to the following: Toplite Lumber, Inc.; Industries Development Corporation; Pacific Timber Export Corporation; Verdant Agro-Forest Development Corporation; Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corporation; International Hardwood and Veneer Company of the Philippines; Timberland Forest Products, Inc.; Benson Realty and Development Corporation; San Roque Sawmill Corporation; RCC Timber Company, Inc.; Guanzon Lime Development Corporation; Tacombro Agri-Development Corporation; Sta. Cecilia Sawmills, Inc.; and, Green Circle Properties Resources, Inc.;

**WHEREAS,** the DENR has also concluded several Socialized Integrated Forest Management Agreements (SIFMAs) and Community-Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMs) for the provinces of Aurora and Quezon, respectively;

**WHEREAS,** the devastation and death to hundreds as a result of massive flooding and landslides, wrought by Typhoon Winnie, is localized in the areas covered by the municipality of Dingalan in the province of Aurora and in the municipalities of General Nakar, Infanta and Real in the province of Quezon;

WHEREAS, the DENR has identified logging companies operating in or adjacent to the devastated areas, viz.: Green Circle Properties Resources, Inc.; Toplite Lumber, Inc.; Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corporation; Timber Land Forest Products, Inc.; Benson Realty and Development Corporation; and Sam Roque Sawill Corporation;

**WHEREAS**, it is reported and documented by environmentalists and technical observers, in their actual assessment of the devastated areas and the sites of the logging operations, that these companies have not been operating in accord with the provisions of the concession

agreements concluded with them by the DENR; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT** –

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources be, as it is hereby, directed to: (a) conduct an investigation into the logging operations in the provinces of Aurora and, Quezon, respectively, particularly in the areas covered by the municipality of Dingalan in the province of Aurora and in the municipalities of General Nakar, Infanta and Real in the province of Quezon; (b) review and assess the effectiveness of the various concession agreements concluded by the DENR for the utilization and development of forest areas; (c) review and assess the effectiveness of the reforestation program; and, (d) review and assess the various proposals for a ban on the cutting of logs in the primary and virgin forests of the country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources be, as it is hereby, directed to craft the appropriate proposed legislation to address the above-indicated coverage of its investigations, not later than ninety (90) days from the adoption hereof.

Adopted,			

EDGARDÓ J. ANGARA

Senator