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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 114

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, WITH THE INTENT OF DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO PREVENT AND CONTROL THE OUTBREAK OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE COUNTRY, AND STRENGTHENING THE MANDATES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF LOCAL LIVESTOCK INVENTORIES, THE SECURITY OF LIVELIHOOD OF LOCAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS, AND THE ACCESSIBILITY AND ADEQUACY OF FOOD SUPPLY IN THE PHILIPPINE MARKET

1 WHEREAS, the Philippine hog-raising industry performs a significant role in the
2 Philippine economy, both as a source of livelihood for thousands of Filipino hog-raisers
3 and those in the swine supply chain and as a source of food for millions of Filipino
4 families;

5 WHEREAS, pork and porcine products remain one of the major sources of
6 calories, protein and fat in a typical Filipino diet, providing each Filipino with 187.94
7 grams of calories, 17.89 grams of proteins and 12.16 grams of fat on a daily basis;

8 WHEREAS, an average Filipino consumes about 56.10 grams of pork daily,
9 which translates to about 2.18 million metric tons (MT) of pork and pork products
10 consumed in the country every year;

11 WHEREAS, according to the 2015 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, a
12 typical Filipino family spends about P4,436 on fresh pork every year, which amounts
13 to more than P100 billion in total household spending annually;

1 WHEREAS, hog-raising is one of the biggest agricultural sub-sectors in the
2 country – second only to rice – with a recorded production value of P268.0 billion in
3 2018;

4 WHEREAS the local hog-raising industry ranked eight (8th) in the world in terms
5 of volume of pork production in 2018;

6 WHEREAS, there are about 12.7 million heads of hogs in the Philippine
7 inventory, of which 63.79% are raised by backyard hog farmers and 36.21% are raised
8 by commercial enterprises;

9 WHEREAS, the number of hogs slaughtered locally has increased by 52.6%
10 from 8.43 million heads in 2000 to 12.87 million heads in 2018, pushing the hog
11 production volume by 52.8% from 1.52 million MT to 2.32 million MT during the same
12 period;

13 WHEREAS, the Philippines imported 312,499 MT of pork products valued at
14 USD 448.98 million in 2018 – a multifold increase from the 32,338 MT import volume
15 and USD22.79 million import value recorded in 2000;

16 WHEREAS, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources
17 Research and Development (PCAARRD) noted that despite the level of swine
18 production, the local swine industry is still hampered by inefficiencies that could be
19 traced from low sow productivity, inefficient diagnostic tools, and lack of native pig
20 genetic resource conservation, improvement and utilization initiatives;

21 WHEREAS, local hog raisers are already enduring more than a million livestock
22 deaths and losses each year from pests and diseases;

23 WHEREAS, the Philippine hog-raising industry – sustained largely by backyard
24 production, fraught with production inefficiencies, and operating in a country
25 significantly dependent on pork imports – is particularly vulnerable to the spread of
26 transboundary animal diseases like the African Swine Fever (ASF);

27 WHEREAS, the ASF is a contagious disease brought by a resilient virus that
28 induces hemorrhagic fever on domestic and wild pigs, causing death to as much as
29 100% of all affected livestock;

1 WHEREAS, ASF can be transmitted from sick to healthy livestock through direct
2 contact with an infected animal or its body secretions and excretions, or through
3 indirect transmission, such as the ingestion of infected meat and contact with parasitic
4 ticks and infected materials and facilities;

5 WHEREAS, despite years of research to discover a cure, there is no known
6 treatment or vaccine at present that could effectively eradicate the ASF virus;

7 WHEREAS, ASF can cause serious economic losses, stemming not only from
8 the actual death of livestock, but also from the public and private cost of controlling
9 the spread of the disease and the imposition of restrictions on transport, trade,
10 importation and exportation of pork and other swine products;

11 WHEREAS, the World Organisation for Animal Health (formerly *Office*
12 *International des Epizooties* or OIE) reported that about 2,530,969 hogs were lost
13 from 10,211 recorded ASF outbreaks that occurred from 2016 to 2019;

14 WHEREAS, OIE reported that as of August 2019, there are 16 countries that
15 have new or ongoing ASF outbreaks, including Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Moldova,
16 Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, South Africa, China, Laos,
17 Myanmar and Viet Nam;

18 WHEREAS, OIE observed a serious deterioration in the global pattern of ASF
19 distribution due to the spread of the disease, mainly in Europe and Asia, after the first
20 occurrence in China in 2018;

21 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has issued several
22 memorandum orders instituting measures to prevent the onset of ASF in the country;

23 WHEREAS, the DA has imposed a temporary ban on the importation of domestic
24 and wild pigs and their products from Hungary, China, Latvia, Poland, Romania,
25 Russia, Ukraine, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Moldova, South Africa, Zambia,
26 Mongolia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, North Korea, Laos and Germany;

27 WHEREAS, the DA has also prohibited the use of food wastes from
28 international and domestic airports and seaports as swill feed, and has proscribed the
29 importation of processed porcine animal proteins from ASF-infected countries;

1 WHEREAS, it is critical to develop preventive strategies to ensure that the
2 disease can be detected at an early stage, that contaminated pork products and
3 fomites would be effectively barred from the country, that the disease can be rapidly
4 contained and eliminated to prevent its progression to an endemic state, and that
5 government mechanisms to address emergency situations are implemented effectively
6 when needed;

7 WHEREAS, there is a need to determine a planned response to address the
8 threat of ASF on the local hog raising industry, and to ensure that the Philippine
9 Government and its instrumentalities are prepared to mitigate the impact of ASF on
10 food, livelihood and economic security of the Filipinos: Now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the appropriate
12 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the African Swine
13 Fever, with the intent of determining the appropriate government intervention to
14 prevent and control the outbreak of transboundary animal diseases, and strengthening
15 the mandates of government agencies in ensuring the sustainability of local livestock
16 inventories, the security of livelihood of local livestock producers, and the accessibility
17 and adequacy of food supply in the Philippine market.

Adopted,

/mdg



RALPH G. RECTO