

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
S.B. No. 809

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Countrywide Development Fund was supposed to enable elected officials to represent their respective constituents in the allocation of national resources among vital community projects. However, it the public perception that pork barrel was greatly used to finance re-election bids of senators and congressmen, that it is subject to abuses by these elected officials instead of using it for a more productive application that national funds could have been put into.

Hence, this bill proposes to amend R. A. No. 8150, "An Act Providing for a Four-Year Public Works and Highways Infrastructure Program" to eliminate all congressional pork without any "ifs" or "buts". It will put an end to the participation of members of Congress in choosing, identifying, realigning and/or approving individual infrastructure projects. Then project implementation will become a purely executive function, as it was meant to be, with funds allocated to executive departments and local governments instead of among legislators.

However, the inherent function of congressional oversight remains to ensure that all laws including appropriations are being implemented in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the law.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly urged.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8150 ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING
PROGRAM FOR A FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
INFRASTRUCTURE"

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section 5 of R.A. 8150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. Participation of Local Government Units – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) [shall upon the request of the member(s) of Congress concerned] MAY authorize provinces, cities, municipalities or barangays to implement projects under the categories of local roads and other public works in this Act: Provided, that these local government units have the capability to implement such projects . "

SECTION 2. Section 6 of R.A. 8150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. Programming of Projects - Annually within the approved expenditure ceiling, the projects herein provided shall be programmed by the Department of Public Works and Highways in consultation [and coordination] with the respective oversight committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives always taking into consideration the policies and priorities in Sections 2 and 3 of this Act: Provided, That during the annual programming of projects under the categories of local roads and other public works, [a member of Congress may submit a substitute priority project listing for his district if a member of the House of Representatives or, in any congressional district if a member of the Senate,] **THE DPWH MAY PROGRAM A SUBSTITUTE PRIORITY PROJECT LISTING** whenever any particular project originally submitted [by him/her] is already being implemented through other sources or a more urgent project is identified: [Provided, further, That in the case of a project originally submitted by an incumbent senator, no substitution or realignment thereof may be done without the written conformity of said incumbent senator, notwithstanding the provision of Section 63 of Republic Act No. 7663, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act of 1994:] Provided, finally, That the substitute project listing falls

under the same category as the original project and has the same probably socioeconomic impact on the community as originally intended . ”

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,