

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session

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SENATE  
P. S. RES. NO. 481



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*Introduced by Sen. M. A. Madrigal*

# RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND THE FUNDAMENTAL RATIONALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT-APPROVED CONSTRUCTION OF A 300-MEGAWATT COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN REDONDO PENINSULA, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT WHICH IS OPPOSED BY ENVIRONMENTAL, BUSINESS, TOURISM AND SOCIO-CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Investments approved in 2007 the P19.32 billion coal-fired power plant project to be built at the Redondo Peninsula, Subic Bay Freeport;

**WHEREAS** the 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant is a 50-50 joint venture of the Aboitiz Power Corporation and the Taiwan Cogeneration International Corporation;

**WHEREAS** it is alleged that the power plant is being built to primarily serve the energy needs of the controversial Korean shipbuilder, Hanjin, in the Freeport;

**WHEREAS** the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce, Subic Bay Resorts Association, various socio-civic organizations, non-governmental organizations, environmental and tourism organizations, including the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, have expressed their opposition to the project;

**WHEREAS** the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) central office created a task force to review the project in view of mounting protests against the project and after an apparent bypassing of the DENR regional office by the project proponents;

**WHEREAS** the proposed establishment of a coal-fired power plant right at the heart of Subic endangers not only the air quality and breathtaking vista of the area but the entire fragile ecosystem of Subic Bay;

**WHEREAS** Subic Bay is home to more than 70 species of endemic fish and marine life, including the endangered Olive Ridley turtle and the hawksbill;

**WHEREAS** the Subic Bay area, with its 9,000 hectare virgin triple canopy rainforest provides high quality fresh air in the region;

**WHEREAS** a coal-fired power plant is one of the dirtiest and most polluting energy production source, according to international environment groups like Greenpeace;

**WHEREAS** ash samples from coal-fired power plants studied over the past three years in the Philippines and Thailand showed high traces of hazardous substances such as mercury and arsenic;

**WHEREAS** carbon dioxide, sulfur oxide and nitrous oxide that may be emitted from the Redondo coal-fired power plant would endanger hundreds of thousands of birds and land animals residing in the Bay and risk the destruction of the rainforest brought about by possible acid rain once the power plant becomes operational;

**WHEREAS** air pollutants from the coal-fired power plant will add up to the greenhouse gas emissions in the country, an expected consequence that runs counter to the policy of the government in averting global warming and its adherence to international conventions on environment protection;

**WHEREAS** waste water discharged from the coal-fired power plant will also surely devastate marine life at Subic Bay, polluting the waters that provide livelihood to thousands of fisherfolk and communities thriving on ecotourism;

**WHEREAS** the Subic coal-fired power plant is but one of several planned coal-fired power plants to be built in the country based on recent pronouncements of the Department of Energy that such an alternative is necessary to prevent the power outages that may happen because of increasing power requirements throughout the country;

**WHEREAS** there is a need to review the environmental effects and scientific rationality of the project considering that the creation of clean and renewable energy sources is the prevailing policy paradigm on energy production;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the environmental impact and fundamental rationality of the government-approved construction of a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Redondo Peninsula, Subic Bay Freeport, which is opposed by environmental, business, tourism and socio-civic organizations.

**Adopted,**

  
**M. A. MADRIGAL**