

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 778

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 765 ON
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 20, provides: "The State recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments";

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 765 effectively scrapped the three percent tariff on bread wheat and the seven percent tariff on feed wheat;

WHEREAS, various news sources report that while local millers have committed to pass on to consumers their savings from the removal of the tariff on wheat through lower flour prices, corn farmers on the other hand, led by the Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (Philmaize), call for the recall of EO 765, saying the move will put them at a disadvantage;

WHEREAS, Philmaize president Roger Navarro reportedly said that the tariff-free importation of feed wheat, the raw material for animal feeds, will pose a serious competition to local yellow corn and discourage farmers from planting more corn;

WHEREAS, representatives of the Philippine Baking Industry Group reportedly said that EO 765 should have included imported flour to promote more competition and prompt local millers to further reduce prices;

WHEREAS, this issue does not only concern the industries affected by the executive order, but also impacts on the nation's food security and the affordability of basic commodities such as *pan de sal* to the common Filipino;

WHEREAS, the wide range of implications of and complications from the lifting of the tariffs on bread and feed wheat and the reaction it garnered from different sectors merit a review of the national policy regarding all affected industries, and the formulation of appropriate legislative measures to protect local industries and consumer interests;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the impact of Executive Order No. 765 on national food security.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO