Pangasinan, a crescent-shaped province in Northern Luzon, features an elongated land area. The distance from the municipality of San Nicolas in the east and Bolinao in the west is 150 kilometers via the Urdaneta Junction – Dagupan Road. Even with 2 other major, but otherwise longer routes (Nueva Vizcaya-Pangasinan & Olongapo-Bugallon Road), it still takes about 4 hours to complete the journey from Eastern to Western Pangasinan, longer than the 210.6 kilometer drive from Manila to Pangasinan, which clocks at around 3 hours and 36 minutes.

Using satellite imagery, it is obvious that the aforementioned routes suffer from traffic build-up, especially near urban centers. Furthermore, Central Pangasinan, where majority of these major thoroughfares are located, is prone to flooding during the wet season limiting accessibility. There is, therefore, a need to construct a new arterial road to decongest such build-up and shorten travel times. The proposed Pangasinan East-West Arterial Road shall begin from San Nicolas, then connect to the portion of MacArthur Highway (National Route 2) in Sison and from Sison, connect to the portion of National Road 55 at San Fabian. The succeeding portions leading to Bolinao in the far west of Pangasinan shall, thereafter, be determined by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

More than decongesting traffic, it is expected that upon completion, the Pangasinan East-West Arterial Road will facilitate the efficient flow of people, goods, and services, spurring even further, the economic development of the province.

A more connected Pangasinan means a more connected people.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PANGASINAN EAST-WEST ARTERIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN

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

SECTION 1. There shall be constructed in the province of Pangasinan, under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways, an arterial road starting from the east in the municipality of San Nicolas, directly connected to the portion of National Route 2 in Sison and from Sison, connected to the portion of National Road 55 in San Fabian. The succeeding routes leading to Bolinao shall, thereafter, be determined by the Department of Public Works and Highways. Provided, That such determination shall be in favor of constructing the shortest route possible.

SEC. 2. The amount needed to implement the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following the approval of this Act. Thereafter, any such amounts as may be necessary for the immediate completion and maintenance of the arterial road shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Approved,