EXPLANATORY NOTE

A significant portion of discarded paper products come from boxes used as packaging for various goods sold in retail stores and groceries. Despite the surge in environmentally conscious packaging, conventional box packaging for goods remained a staple in the retail industry. Moreover, due to the clamor to reduce plastic waste taking traction in the recent years, there had been a steady increase in demand for paper bags and paper packaging in general. It is even projected that the Philippines will surpass two million metric tons in its paper and board demand.¹

Unfortunately, this rise in demand is taking a toll on the environment. Just in Metro Manila, about 17% of the garbage collected daily are paper and paper products.² Our landfills are full of discarded paper and board. Decomposing paper and board emits methane, and the chemicals used to the produce the paper seeps into the soil and into the water underground.

Likewise, the paper production industry itself adversely impacts not only land resources, but also the air through the emissions from the factories, and water when solids and dissolved matter is discharged to the rivers and waterways.³ The positive environmental impact that was anticipated from the decrease in plastic use is offset by the higher demand for paper boxes and packaging and the higher volume of discarded paper waste.

Hence, to pave the way to more sustainable packaging practices, this bill seeks to do away with outer box packaging that are unnecessary and maintained mostly for aesthetics. Goods which do not require outer protective covers and those which can be safely sold to consumers without the boxes shall be covered by this law.

It is hoped that this bill will result in the significant reduction of paper waste and in lessening the environmental impact of paper production.

ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party List
Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 6208  

Introduced by ANG PROBINSYANO  
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos  

AN ACT  
REMOVING CARDBOARD WASTAGE IN THE PRODUCTION PROCESS OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS  

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “No Boxes Act.”  

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology. In line with this, the State shall enact steps in order to regulate production of consumer products to ensure that the country’s carbon footprint and the volume of waste it produces is decreased significantly.  

SECTION 3. Definitions. – As used in this Act:  

a) Manufacturing Company is a commercial business that converts raw materials or components into finished products for the consumption of customers or disposition to a distributor;  

b) National Waste Reduction Program refers to a set of programs and policies to be developed by the government in order to reduce the amount of waste products in the packaging, and distribution stages;  

SECTION 4. Development of a National Waste Reduction Program. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), along with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) are hereby mandated to create plans and guidelines for manufacturing companies to reduce waste in consumer products such as cardboard boxes in the packaging and distribution of said
products. This National Waste Reduction Program shall be promulgated by the DTI and DENR within 180 days from the effectivity of this Act.

The excess to be reduced from the production of consumer products shall be guided by the following standards:

1) The necessity of the material/item in the preservation of the product’s integrity; and
2) The necessity of the material/item in the storage of the item for transportation and delivery purposes;

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,