WHEREAS, the Philippines is rich in flora and fauna and is home to a wide variety of wildlife found only here and nowhere else in the world. In fact, 47 percent of terrestrial animals are endemic to the Philippines including but not limited to the Philippine Pond Turtle, Palawan Pangolin, Blue Naped Parrot, Monitor Lizard, Philippine Slow Loris, Philippine Cockatoo, Visayan Tarietic Hornbill, Brahminy Kite, Philippine Hanging Parrot.

WHEREAS, illegal wildlife trade has a significant economic, environment, security and social impacts detrimental to the Philippines and the world.

WHEREAS, illegal wildlife trade has become a highly organised, sophisticated criminal activity in a global scale using the same routes as criminals involved in tax evasion, corruption, money laundering and violent crime that takes resources away from government revenues.

WHEREAS, the Philippines has a complex role in the illegal trade in wildlife, not only as a source of endemic and endangered species but a destination and transit point for trafficked animals and their parts. Just recently, agents of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested two men for illegal possession and sale of wildlife. The agents also discovered birds crammed in crates and cages as well as 450 animals, including different species of endangered birds, lizards and mammals poached from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea worth P50 million in the local market that could increase five times more in the underground and black markets.

WHEREAS, illegal wildlife trade is a global multi-billion dollar industry wherein the Philippines is losing P50 billion a year according to Theresa Mundita Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity and head of DENR's
Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). According to DENR-BMB, the value of confiscated wildlife based on the selling price in the market reached ₱184.9 million from 2013 to 2018. Unfortunately, this is only a dearth of its actual monetary value because of its environmental impact particularly in terms of biodiversity.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives directing the Committee on Natural Resources conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the illegal wildlife trade and a review of relevant existing laws.

Adopted,

HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Representative
Lone District of the City of Dasmarias