RESOLUTION URGING THE USE OF COCO COIR GEONET TO HELP IN REDUCING MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNRESTRICTED PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND DISPOSAL OF SINGLE-USED PLASTIC BAGS

WHEREAS, an estimated one trillion single-use plastic bags are utilized each year around the world (Larsen & Venkova, 2014). It is estimated that only nine percent (9%) of these plastic products are recycled, while seventy-nine percent (79%) simply accumulates in landfills, or worse, in the natural environment (Excell; Carole et al., “Legal Limits on Single-Use Plastics and Microplastics: A Global Review of National Laws and Regulation,” UN Environment, 2018);

WHEREAS, conscious of the threat of plastic pollution, more than one hundred twenty seven (127) countries have passed regulations to stem the production, distribution, use, and disposal of plastics. These include outright plastic bans while other regulatory approaches include levies on plastic bags, taxes, and financial incentives.
WHEREAS, recognizing the threats posed by single-used plastic bags to the environment, a growing number of municipalities and cities are now implementing ordinances aimed at reducing the use of plastic bags and shift focus to ecologically friendly alternatives to curb plastic bag consumption.

WHEREAS, the Philippines is one of the largest producers of coconut in the world, second to Indonesia. Thus, coconut products and by-products are readily available resources within the entire archipelago;

WHEREAS, Filipino ingenuity comes to the fore in these critical times with the coco-coir geonet making. The initiative focuses on a sustainable livelihood program with the two-fold benefit of boosting the economy and diminishing ecological imbalance;
WHEREAS, the coco coir, which would ordinarily be disposed of, can be easily processed to produce coconets or geonets, sturdy enough as alternative to plastic bags.

WHEREAS, with a strong desire to reduce if not totally eliminate the use of plastic bags as packaging materials, this body encourages the use of coco coir geonets to avoid the detrimental effect of plastic bags to our fragile environment;

WHEREAS, the undersigned authors are committed to the protection, preservation and conservation of the ecosystem; and always mindful of the responsibility of the State to preserve the rhythm and harmony of nature for the full enjoyment of a balanced and healthful ecology, as duly mandated by the Constitution and by various laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that as we struggle with the magnitude of the plastic pollution problem we are facing right now, this body urges the use of coco coir geonets as a sustainable alternative to plastic bags.

Adopted,

DAVID C. SUAREZ
2nd District, Quezon

ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
ALONA Partylist