A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES AFFECTING ENERGY SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY POLICIES TO ATTAIN AN INDEPENDENT AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SUPPLY

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution declares that sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them. It is the policy of the state to protect and uphold national sovereignty and national interest;

WHEREAS, in the context of a global economy driven by energy at all scales, “sovereignty must not only be understood in its political sense but also in its technological and energy acceptations;”¹

WHEREAS, state sovereignty has evolved to include “energy independence and security as the use of an undetermined quantity of resources that are considered necessary to keep domestic economies running at full power;”

WHEREAS, energy security has evolved into a “broader and more comprehensive concept that considers economic, technological, environmental, social, and geopolitical factors creating a more challenging assessment of risks, threats and vulnerabilities in energy systems;”

WHEREAS, “energy security is a major factor influencing how countries conduct their foreign, economic and international security policies. Major supplier countries with vast energy resources exercise more power on the international stage than ever before. Energy is a primary consideration in how large importers – in need of adequate, reliable, and affordable supplies of energy – make alliances, offer foreign aid, and otherwise conduct their foreign policy;”

WHEREAS, the Philippines is highly dependent on foreign sources for its energy needs. World Bank data show that from 1971 to 2014, the Philippines is a net importer of energy with an average value of energy imports at 45.48%;

WHEREAS, at a time when energy policy is increasingly influenced by geopolitical forces, it is crucial to ensure the country’s energy security at critical times and to limit the Philippines’ dependence on other countries for its energy supply;

WHEREAS, natural gas has emerged as a reliable and cost-effective source of energy for the Philippines, with the country’s main domestic source of energy being the Malampaya natural gas field which provides half of the electricity supply for the island of Luzon and the national capital of Manila;

WHEREAS, since the country first declared its intention to promote exploration, development, and production of indigenous petroleum resources in 1972 or almost four decades ago, only the Malampaya-Camago project had materialized;

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WHEREAS, the continued stability of domestic output levels, primarily from the Malampaya reservoir, is now contingent on the successful implementation of new investments made in the field;\(^8\)

WHEREAS, ongoing issues on territorial disputes over the South China Sea have severely hampered efforts for further exploration and development of domestic sources of energy;

WHEREAS, most energy companies have refrained from bidding on the Philippines’ proposed offshore blocks, not for fear that these would not be economically viable natural gas reserves, but due to security risks posed by undertaking energy exploration in waters claimed by China;\(^9\)

WHEREAS, while an increase in substantial investments will bolster the nation’s efforts towards an independent and sustainable energy supply, it is likewise imperative to look into the country’s current energy issues through the lens of national security;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to direct the Committee on Defense and National Security, and other appropriate committees, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the national security issues affecting energy security in the country and the implementation of national defense and security policies to attain an independent and sustainable energy supply.

Adopted.

\(\text{Rep. Adriano A. Ebcas}\
\text{Ako Padayon Pilipino Partylist}\)

\(\text{Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc}\)
\text{APEC Partylist}\)


\(^9\) Chang, supra.
REP. GODOFREDO N. GUYA
RECOBODA Partylist

REP. PRESLEY C. DE JESUS
PHILRECA Partylist

REP. JORGE ANTONIO P. BUSTOS
PATROL Partylist