A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, CALLING DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES AND THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION, RELATIVE TO THE USE OF SMART METERS FOR SAFE AND CONTACTLESS METER-READING

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the consumers, promote their general welfare, and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry, as provided for in Article 2 of the Consumer Act of the Philippines,

WHEREAS, the imposition of Enhanced Community Quarantine restrictions has made it difficult for meter readers to conduct actual meter readings during the lockdown period,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the advisory of the Energy Regulatory Commission dated 15 April 2020, distribution utilities may use estimated billings for the months of March and April 2020,

WHEREAS, the use of this estimated billings was provided for in the Distribution Services and Open Access Rules (DSOAR), section 3.5.4,

WHEREAS, various complaints have been filed before the Energy Regulatory Commission with regard to these estimated billings, in particular, the failure of distribution utilities to explain to the public the computation used in measuring electric charges,

WHEREAS, the Energy Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, mandates the protection of public interest as it is affected by the rates and services of electric utilities and other providers of electric power,

WHEREAS, with the advent of technology, smart meters have been deployed around the world to remotely and electronically monitor and measure electricity consumption data,

WHEREAS, smart meters can replace the use of estimated billings in cases of force majeure, and unforeseeable events, such as the Covid-19 pandemic,

WHEREAS, the application for the deployment of smart meters before the Energy Regulatory Commission have been initiated since 2015 and have been pending since,
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives that the appropriate committee/s be directed to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, to consider the establishment of smart meter infrastructure as a means to measure and monitor electricity consumption in a safe, transparent, and efficient manner, and accordingly, fulfill the State’s obligation to protect the Filipino consumers.

Adopted,

HON. VIRGILIO S. LACSON