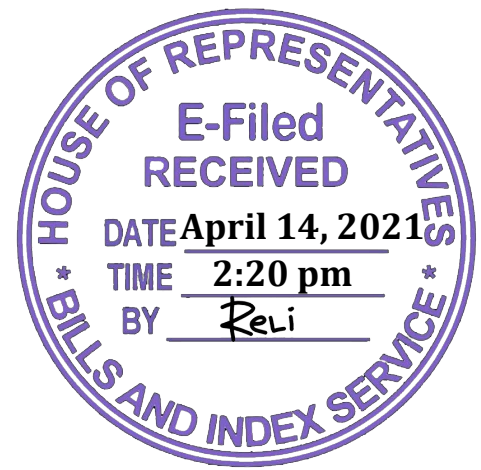


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Joint Resolution No. 37



Introduced by Representatives

CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, ROSE MARIE J. ARENAS, JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE, ARLENE D. BROSAS, ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT, FRANCE L. CASTRO, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT, LORENZ R. DEFENSOR, SARAH JANE L. ELAGO, EDGAR R. ERICE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, JANETTE L. GARIN, RICO B. GERON, JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES, EDCEL C. LAGMAN, GERALDINE B. ROMAN, and NOEL L. VILLANUEVA

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

TO IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE OR WITHDRAW EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 128, SERIES OF 2021, TEMPORARILY MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN PORK MEAT, AS WELL AS TO REJECT THE STAGGERING EXPANSION OF THE MINIMUM ACCESS VOLUME OF PORK IMPORTS

WHEREAS, under Section 1608 (f) of R.A. 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, Congress has the power to withdraw or terminate the delegated power of the President to reduce existing rates of import duties;

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2021, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Executive Order (EO) No. 128 temporarily reducing the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariff rates on fresh, chilled, or frozen meat of swine with the objective of addressing the existing pork supply shortage, stabilize the prices of pork meat, and minimize inflation rates;

WHEREAS, EO 128, which also allows tariff reduction on pork imports from the current 40 percent to 15 percent out quota and 30 percent to 5 percent in quota, for a period of one (1) year, will impact a total loss of as much as PHP14-billion in revenues, as estimated by domestic hog raisers and producers;

WHEREAS, tariff reduction on pork imports will automatically foster increased importation of pork products at the expense of local hog raisers and producers, who are seeking much-needed indemnification and assistance amid the damaging impact of the African Swine Fever (ASF) that continues to plague the country since July 2019;

WHEREAS, hog raisers and producers nationwide are also unanimous in opposing tariff reduction and the staggering expansion of the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) of pork imports from 54,000 metric tons (MT) to 404, 000 MT or an equivalent of 749% increase in the current quota. The Department of Agriculture, as well as hog raisers agree¹ that the country's consumption of pork is around 1,600,000 MT. However, hog raisers estimate that 160,000 MT of imported pork would be sufficient to cover pork deficiency in the country since local production can still supply 1,461,866 MT. Hog raisers fear that importing in excess of this would flood the market and defeat the local industry;

WHEREAS, tariff reduction and increased MAV of pork imports will further decimate the local pork industry as we know it and will also undermine our local production and food security, as what has happened to the rice industry;

WHEREAS, thousands of Filipinos depend on the pork industry for their livelihood. The impending production stoppage of many producers who cannot cope with the negative effects of the reduced tariff and MAV expansion will mean more loss of jobs and livelihood not only for the owners but also for the entire workforce of the industry;

WHEREAS, the further decline of the local pork industry will also affect many local allied industries, including poultry, corn farmers and coconut farmers, and other such industries using or dependent on pork products will likely impact on the country's agricultural development;

WHEREAS, it is not an assurance that reduced tariffs and increased importation will stabilize or reduce the current high prices of pork meat products which has become unfairly exorbitant for consumers;

WHEREAS, the government must heed the urgent demands and sincere appeal of hog raisers, producers and farmers against tariff reduction and MAV expansion of pork imports;

WHEREAS, the government must instead implement more effective and long-term solutions to strengthen and address the repopulation and rehabilitation of the local pork industry;

WHEREAS, it is also imperative to note that aside from the lowering of tariff rates, increasing or expanding the MAV on pork or on any of our agricultural products is detrimental not only to our agricultural sector, but also to the whole economy;

WHEREAS, EO 128 would create an irreparable damage to the pork industry and to the agricultural sector as a whole. EO 128 runs contrary to the promotion of the general welfare of the people which is a fundamental principle in our


¹ Congressional joint hearing of the Committees on Agriculture and Food with Trade and Industry, March 11, 2021.

Constitution. By this reason alone, EO 128 must be withdrawn and terminated immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives and the Senate, by virtue of Section 1608 (f) of RA 10863 and through this Joint Resolution, to immediately terminate or withdraw Executive Order No. 128, series of 2021, temporarily modifying the rates of import duty on fresh, chilled or frozen pork meat, as well as to reject the staggering expansion of the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) of pork imports.

Adopted,


Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-list


Rep. JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE
Quezon City, 6th District


Rep. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party List

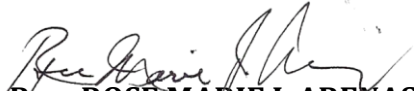

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
BAYAN MUNA Party-list

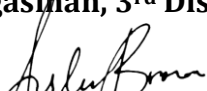

Rep. SARAH JANE L. ELAGO
KABATAAN Party-list


Rep. JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES
Bukidnon, 2nd District


Rep. JANETTE L. GARIN
Iloilo, 1st District


Rep. EDCCEL C. LAGMAN
Albay, 1st District



Rep. ROSE MARIE J. ARENAS
Pangasinan, 3rd District


Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT TEACHERS Party-list


Rep. LORENZ R. DEFENSOR
Iloilo, 3rd District


Rep. EDGAR R. ERICE
Caloocan City, 2nd District


Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE
BAYAN MUNA Party-list


Rep. RICO B. GERON
AGAP Party-list


Rep. GERALDINE B. ROMAN
Bataan, 1st District

REP. NOEL L. VILLANUEVA
Tarlac, 3rd District