RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY, TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE REPORTED OIL SPILL IN BARRIO OBRERO, ILOILO CITY AND TO ENACT PROTOCOLS AND RULES OF ENGAGEMENT IN HANDLING AND MANAGING INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE

WHEREAS, on 03 July 2020, Power Barge 102 ("PB 102") located in Zone 3, Barrio Obrero, Iloilo City discharged fuel oil with an estimated volume of 268,000 liters (the "Incident") which resulted to oil contamination of the neighboring shorelines and evacuation of affected residents;

WHEREAS, based on reports, the discharge was attributable to the ignition of fuel oil in storage which ruptured PB 102’s fuel tank;

WHEREAS, AC Energy Philippines, Inc. ("ACEPH") owns PB 102, but is said to be operated and maintained by Bulacan Power Generation Corporation ("BPGC"), a wholly owned subsidiary of ACEPH;

WHEREAS, oil recovery and oil clean-up activities were reported to have been undertaken by ACEPH and BPGC in coordination with local government units, other government agencies, various stakeholders and industry partners, third party contractors, and volunteers to mitigate the impact of the oil spill, ensure the restoration and rehabilitation of the affected areas, and address the needs and concerns of the affected residents;

WHEREAS, based on latest available reports, about 261,000 liters or 97% of the spilled oil have been recovered while majority of the coastal areas affected by fugitive oil have also been cleaned, with only a few areas remaining. Moreover, the affected residents have safely returned to their homes on 18 July 2020 after they were temporarily evacuated to several hotels in Iloilo City. During the period that the residents were in the hotels, they were provided with food, medicine, and other necessities, and private and city health doctors and nurses were available to assist the relocated families with their medical needs;
WHEREAS, it is apparent that there should be well-defined protocols and rules of engagement in handling and managing incidents of this nature to mitigate its impact on the environment and the communities;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Ecology inquire into the Incident, particularly whether appropriate response and mitigation measures were implemented following the Incident, and to assist Congress and the Committee on Ecology in crafting adequate, responsive, and comprehensive legislation on the possible institutionalization of protocols and rules of engagement in handling and managing incidents of this nature to mitigate the impact on the environment and the communities.

Adopted,

[Signature]

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