Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 773

Submitted by the Committee on Climate Change on MAR 01 2021.

Re: House Resolution No. 1494.

Recommending its adoption without amendment(s)

Sponsors: Reps. Edgar M. Chatto and Loren Legarda

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Climate Change to which was referred House Resolution No. 1494 introduced by Representative Loren Legarda, entitled:

"RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO URGE THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION TO SUBMIT THE PHILIPPINE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) CONVEYING THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE CLIMATE AMBITION IN REFLECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL EFFORTS TO ADVANCE CLIMATE JUSTICE, AS PART OF THE COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLDWIDE VULNERABLE COUNTRIES' AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY'S RESOLVE TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TO DRIVE THE COUNTRY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE PANDEMIC RECOVERY"

has considered the same and recommends its adoption without amendment with Reps. Edgar M. Chatto, Loren Legarda, Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Allan "Aldu" Dujali, Irene Gay F. Saulog, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat and John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

EDGAR M. CHATTO
Chairperson
Committee on Climate Change

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO URGE THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION TO SUBMIT THE PHILIPPINE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) CONVEYING THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE CLIMATE AMBITION IN REFLECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT’S STRONG COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL EFFORTS TO ADVANCE CLIMATE JUSTICE, AS PART OF THE COUNTRY’S COMMITMENT UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLDWIDE VULNERABLE COUNTRIES’ AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY’S RESOLVE TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TO DRIVE THE COUNTRY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE PANDEMIC RECOVERY

WHEREAS, the Philippines submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) on 01 October 2015¹ as part of its commitment to ensure the conclusion of a “universal, equitable, and ambitious” international climate agreement for the post-2020 period during the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, France in 2015;

WHEREAS, Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement states that each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions;

WHEREAS, the NDCs are the very core of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of a long-term goal for adaptation – to increase the ability of governments and communities to adapt to the adverse impacts of the climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development;

WHEREAS, the Philippines did not meet the deadline for the submission of its NDC on 31 December 2020 pursuant to paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Decision 1/CP.21;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to inquire into the delay in the submission of the NDC and to determine the veracity of the assertion that, to date, the Philippines is one of the few countries without an NDC;

WHEREAS, the Climate Change Commission (CCC), as the lead facilitator of the NDC formulation process, must ensure that the country's NDC shall be aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that the country's development pursuit of low carbon and climate-resilient pathways;

WHEREAS, different agencies have reflected both the climate justice declarations of the President as well as, more importantly, his sense of climate ambition as demonstrated, for instance, by the Department of Energy's adoption of the National Renewable Energy Board's National Renewable Energy Program, the October 2020 declaration of a moratorium on all greenfield coal plants, as well as its roll out this year of the country's first green auctions and the request for the Climate Change Commission to file claims in the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage for the severe costly impacts of extreme weather events on the country's power sector utilities;

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Department of the Interior and
Local Government have each likewise taken steps that convey the same sense of urgency and opportunity, by highlighting the urgent need to shift to a modern, high efficiency, low carbon powered economy and the mainstreaming of climate sensitive transport systems, in particular low emission public vehicle propagation and the nationwide promotion of non-motorized transport strategies such as the national promotion of interconnected, protected bicycle lanes;

WHEREAS, no less than the country’s leading financial regulator, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, has issued its Sustainable Finance Framework that seeks to guide the commercial banks away from risks of stranding fossil assets and towards sustainable, energy secure, more affordable and reliable renewable energy technologies;

WHEREAS, there continues to be a need for a whole-of-government approach, with emphasis on clarity, transparency, and accountability from the government agencies involved in the country’s NDC formulation process;

WHEREAS, Article 4.11 of the Paris Agreement states that a Party may at any time adjust its existing NDC with a view to enhance its level of ambition, in accordance with the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;

WHEREAS, given the risks of natural calamities and disasters faced by the Philippines which the recent devastation caused by Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses reminded us of, it is imperative that the country reduce its vulnerability with an economy that is locally focused and adaptive, relying on a diversity of sources for our most basic needs and aiming for greater and greater self-reliance;

WHEREAS, there is no place for fear or hesitancy in expediting our country’s NDC submission with its highest possible climate ambitions for the country’s
sustainable development as it will drive all sectors of the economy to strengthen its capacity to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change into a thriving post-crisis scenario that turns crisis into opportunity;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the House of Representatives should urge the CCC, as the national focal point to the UNFCCC, to submit the Philippine NDC way before the holding of COP26 in Glasgow, conveying the highest possible climate ambition in reflection of the government’s strong commitment to contribute to global efforts to advance climate justice, as part of the country’s commitment under the Paris Agreement and in solidarity with worldwide vulnerable communities and the global community’s resolve to address the climate emergency and promote a sustainable pandemic recovery;

**RESOLVED, FURTHER,** that the NDC process in this first and succeeding submissions must be true to its “whole-of-nation” approach by fostering a more inclusive and consultative process from a wide range of stakeholders in the government, private sector, academe, civil society, and other sectors, ensuring participation from indigenous groups, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized sectors of the society;

**RESOLVED, FINALLY,** that, in consonance with its declaration of a climate emergency, the House of Representatives should likewise lead the charge in the reduction of the country’s vulnerability by ensuring that succeeding annual appropriations that will be enacted shall be fully geared towards an economy that is inclusive, diverse, locally adaptive, and as self-sufficient as possible.

*Adopted ___*

LOREN LEGARDA