Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 2534, introduced by Representative Jumel Anthony I. Espino, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE DOWNSTREAM AGNO RIVER AS AN ECO-TOURISM ZONE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 8966, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE DOWNSTREAM AGNO RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF URBIZTONDO, MANGATAREM, AGUILAR, BUGALLON AND LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR


Respectfully submitted,

REP. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. SOL ARAGONES
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8966
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 2534)


AN ACT
DECLARING THE DOWNSTREAM AGNO RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF Urbiztondo, Mangatarem, Aguilar, Bugallon and Lingayen, Province of Pangasinan, an Ecotourism Zone, and Appropriating Funds Therefor

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The downstream Agno River located in the Municipalities of Urbiztondo, Mangatarem, Aguilar, Bugallon and Lingayen in the Province of Pangasinan is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture, provincial government of Pangasinan, and the municipal governments of Urbiztondo, Mangatarem, Aguilar, Bugallon and Lingayen, shall jointly prepare an ecotourism development plan including the construction,
installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance ecotourism in the area. Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation, conservation and optimum utilization of available assets and resources in the area.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include the downstream Agno River in all its national, regional and local promotions programs.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the Department.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the concerned national government agencies and local government units, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,