

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 806

### **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POSSIBLE HAZARDS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND DANGER TO LIFE AND PROPERTY POSED BY THE UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS PIPES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE NECESSITY OF ADOPTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the Constitution declares that it is the policy of the State to "protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, while industrialization and modernization is desired, exploitation of naturally occurring sources of energy such as natural gas and oil to fuel economic growth must conform to the principle of sustainable development and the constitutional mandate;

WHEREAS, these natural fuels and their derivatives are usually conducted from their sources to population and industrial centers through enormous pipes capable of transporting hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of these fuels in one day;

WHEREAS, the laying of these fuel pipe lines will, almost always, require deep and large excavations through forests and thickly populated areas and, in the case of marine fuel pipe lines, the removal of obstructive coral growth in the seabed, thereby destroying the natural habitat of rare species of wild terrestrial and marine flora and fauna;

WHEREAS, existing pipelines, especially the old ones, or new pipelines that have to pass through geologic fault zones of those which are not earthquake resistant may develop leaks that may not only endanger the health, lives, and property of the inhabitants living nearby, but also annihilate said species of terrestrial and marine flora and fauna along the path of the pipeline, considering the toxic, volatile, and explosive character of natural gas and other fossil fuels;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved that concerned officials of the Department of Energy and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, as well as responsible officers of First Gas Holdings Corporation, Petron Corporation, Caltex (Philippines), Shell Exploration, and other entities engaged in similar business and undertaking be summoned, in aid of legislation, to appear before the Committee on Ecology and enlighten the members thereof on the possible hazards to the environment of the excavations made in connection with the laying of the pipes that conduct natural gas and other fossil fuels from the source to the major distribution centers and the harm resulting from the leaks that may develop therefrom to the immediate surrounding areas, for the purpose of determining the necessity of adopting remedial legislative measures.

Adopted.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE A. SANDOVAL**, Representative, First District, Palawan