

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Resolution No. _____

INTRODUCED BY KABATAAN PARTY-LIST REP. RAYMOND V. PALATINO

A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO THE ONGOING EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY OF THE FILIPINO YOUTH, CALLING FOR THE REDUCTION OF CARBON-DIOXIDE (CO₂) CONCENTRATION IN THE ATMOSPHERE TO 350 PARTS PER MILLION TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF HUMAN LIFE ON EARTH, AND CONCOMITANTLY, TO URGE LEADERS OF 'G8 COUNTRIES' TO COMMIT TO LEGALLY BINDING AND EFFECTIVE CLIMATE TREATY AT THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE TALKS TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE THEIR CARBON EMISSIONS.

WHEREAS, Global greenhouse gases (GHGs) mainly from human activities have altered our climate. The Nobel Prize-winning assessment report of the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) headed by Dr. Rajendra Pachauri made it clear that global warming is real as shown by observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, rapid melting of snow and ice and rising global sea levels. A 0.75 degrees Celsius increase was observed over the world in the past century. The decade of 1996-2006 has been recorded as the warmest years since the 1850s. Arctic ice cover is melting at a rate of 2.7% per decade, which increases to 7.4% during the summer period. Rate of sea level increase rose from an annual average of 1.8mm from 1961 to 3.1mm from 1996. Increases in number and strength of tropical cyclones and sea level rise put vulnerable populations, especially coastal and low-lying areas in great danger.

WHEREAS, the IPCC report indicated that the 70% rise in GHGs in general and 80% increase in Carbon Dioxide emission in particular in the last 3 decades is due to human-related activities. The rapid rise of GHG levels started during the period of industrial revolution with the rampant use of fossil fuels and extraction of raw materials for industrial production.

WHEREAS, 350 parts per million is the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Dr. James Hansen of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration has recently issued the statement: "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at most 350 ppm."

WHEREAS, developing countries like the Philippines, although not belonging to the largest emitters of GHGs will be the most affected by climate change. Extreme weather events brought by climate change will worsen poverty and environmental destruction already faced by Filipinos. Typhoons, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels, increase in climate-related diseases such as malaria and dengue will heavily impact the livelihood and health of the Filipinos, especially the poor, women and children since they have the least capacity to complete their daily needs and have least or even no access to services such as education and health. 350 ppm means preventing more damage to the Philippine environment and protecting the welfare of the Filipino people.

WHEREAS, developed countries on the other hand, especially the G8 are the largest emitters of GHG due to their economic activities. The US alone accounts for 25% of the total GHG emissions. Developed countries should commit to at least 45% emissions reductions below 1990 levels by 2020. And as previously agreed to in the Kyoto Protocol, developing countries should reduce emissions only insofar as they are supported by technology and financing from developed countries.

WHEREAS, the passage of the Climate Change Act of 2009 will not solve the climate crisis in the Philippines until environmentally destructive policies such as the Mining Act of 1995 and the building of new coal-fired power plants are discontinued and the country pushes for cuts in the developed nations' GHG emissions in the COP15 talks. The sincerity of the Arroyo government in protecting the Filipino people from the effects of climate change has yet to be proven.

WHEREAS, youth from all over the world, including the Philippines, have expressed support to the 350ppm target. Despite the developed nations' tactics to kill Kyoto Protocol and create a weaker treaty during the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 15 (COP15) in Copenhagen, world leaders should unite to push for an effective and legally binding treaty that will put 350ppm as target and provide technological and financial aid to developing countries to help them adapt to the changes in the climate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the House of Representatives support the 350ppm target and call on the President to support the target during the COP15 talks to push for an effective and legally binding agreement that will help reach 350 through deep and drastic emission cuts by developed countries and financial and technological support to developing countries to help them adapt to climate change.

Adopted,

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