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SENATE  
Senate Resolution No. 482

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CEMENT BEING PRODUCED BY THE PHILIPPINE CEMENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND TO CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO ENSURE THAT THE LOCAL CEMENT PRODUCTION INDUSTRY IS ONE WITH THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IN THE EFFORTS TO MAKE CEMENT PRODUCTION "GREENER" AND MORE ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY**

**WHEREAS**, it has been long established that the unprecedented rapid increase in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is a "main driving cause of climate change", as confirmed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued in 2013 (**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) website, <http://www.ipcc.ch> [accessed on 29 January 2014]**);

**WHEREAS**, carbon dioxide, a kind of greenhouse gas, results in the production of cement, not only from the chemical conversion process in the production of the cement component called "clinker", but also from the burning of fossil fuel in the cement production plants themselves;

**WHEREAS**, data show that the cement production industry accounts for six percent (6%) of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the world (**Vilella, Mariel and Carlos Arriba, "Cement Waste and Carbon Markets: Problems Related to Waste Incineration in Cement Kilns under the EU ETS", [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0017/organisations/global\\_3\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0017/organisations/global_3_en.pdf), [accessed on 30 January 2014]**);

**WHEREAS**, there is an expected upsurge in the construction demand in the Philippines, which is largely driven by the national housing backlog of almost 4 million units (predicted to balloon to 5.7 million by 2016), as well as by the expected massive reconstruction that will accompany the rehabilitation and recovery plans being laid out by the government for the Visayas region, particularly in the areas devastated by super typhoon Yolanda (**Maxwell-Cook, Paul. "Mixed Fortunes in Southern Asia: the Philippines", World Cement website, [http://www.worldcement.com/news/cement/articles/Mixed\\_fortunes\\_in\\_Southeast\\_Asia\\_Part\\_1\\_646.aspx#.UunhzBajDUR](http://www.worldcement.com/news/cement/articles/Mixed_fortunes_in_Southeast_Asia_Part_1_646.aspx#.UunhzBajDUR) [accessed on 29 January 2014]**);

**WHEREAS**, this increase in the construction demand will also mean a directly proportional increase in cement production demand and sales;

**WHEREAS**, this expected increase in the demand for cement is no less confirmed recently by the local cement production industry, represented by the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (CEMAP), which cites continued investor confidence in the government and the bigger budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as additional reasons for the its expected sales boom (**Desiderio, Louella. "Cement sales up by 6% in 2013". The Philippine Star. <http://www.philstar.com/business/2014/01/30/1284440/cement-sales-6-2013>, [accessed on 30 January 2014]**);

**WHEREAS**, both in anticipation and as a result of the boom in construction this year, the local cement production industry reports that it will likely continue its sales growth and will engage in plant expansions and further increase the capacity utilization of its existing cement plants;

**WHEREAS**, on the one hand, this particular bullish economic phenomenon in the Philippines will most unfortunately increase the carbon emissions of the country into our atmosphere;

**WHEREAS**, ironically on the other hand, we recognize that cement has a major role to play in physical planning and social and economic development, and the use of cement or concrete in construction projects has always proved to be the most dependable and prudent choice for building material, owing to its unparalleled strength, durability and resiliency, especially against the very

effects of global warming and climate change: potentially destructive extreme weather disturbances;

**WHEREAS**, fortunately enough, however, there have been global efforts to make cement production more sustainable and environment-friendly, in tune with the worldwide awareness and action towards a more environment-friendly approach to building, more popularly known as "green building";

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the dangers posed by the cement production industry to the environment, major world players in the cement manufacturing industry have started a global corporate social responsibility initiative focused on the "greening" of cement production, called the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) (<http://www.wbcSD.org/work-program/sector-projects/cement/overview.aspx> [accessed on 30 January 2014]);

**WHEREAS**, the CSI has adopted a more conscious and morally responsible approach to cement production by exerting efforts to lessen the impact of the cement production industry upon the environment, such as through the adoption of energy-efficient processes, introduction of alternative fuels and blending materials, and reduction of net carbon dioxide emissions and heat consumption, which have been confirmed to really lower net carbon emissions;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to inquire whether the Philippine cement production industry is attuned to these global efforts being done, and whether our companies are adopting means and methods to at least lower the carbon emissions of our local cement production, at this most appropriate time where the country, both public and private sector, is expected to undertake massive building and construction projects in order to meet urgent private and public needs and interests.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate, through the Committee on Public Works, conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) with regard to the state of the local cement manufacturing industry relative to its net overall carbon

emission levels, and its awareness of and compliance with the global "greening" efforts towards a cleaner and more environment-friendly cement production being spearheaded by the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Adopted,



**FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**