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SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. **667**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator M.A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RATIONALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES ALLOWING THE BUILDING OF A 164-MEGAWATT COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN HISTORIC ILOILO CITY NOTWITHSTANDING OPPOSITION FROM CHURCH AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

WHEREAS the Panay Power Corporation (PPC) and the Global Business Power Corporation (GBPC) plan to build a 164-megawatt coal-fired power plant inside a 40-hectare property of PPC in Barangay Ingore, Lapaz District, Iloilo City, which plant will be completed in 2010;

WHEREAS the said coal-fired power plant will be built in the heart of picturesque Iloilo City that is said to have "more historic integrity" than many other larger Philippine cities as it is the site of several magnificent old churches and other historical landmarks;

WHEREAS the Catholic Church, led by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, and various environmental groups have opposed the project because of the reported long-term harmful effects of coal-fired power plants on communities that host such plants;

WHEREAS according to the environment group Greenpeace, a coal-fired power plant is one of the dirtiest and most polluting energy production sources;

WHEREAS ash samples from coal-fired power plants emit hazardous substances such as mercury and arsenic;

WHEREAS coal-fired power plants also produce other hazardous substances such as carbon monoxide, sulfur oxide and nitrogen oxide, all of which are a known source of air and water pollutants;

WHEREAS notwithstanding the dire environmental consequences produced by coal-fired power plants, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources still issued an Environment Certificate of Compliance to the PCC and GBPC to build a coal-fired power plant in the heart of Iloilo City;

WHEREAS there is a need to review the rationality and study the harmful environmental consequences that may arise with the building of a coal-fired power plant in Iloilo City which is heavily populated and likewise a national heritage site that needs to be conserved and preserved for posterity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to investigate, in aid of legislation, the rationality and environmental impact of the Environmental Compliance Certificate granted by the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources which allows the building of a 164-megawatt coal-fired power plant in historic Iloilo City, notwithstanding opposition from church and environmental groups.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL