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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 289

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ANENT THE STATE OF TOBACCO INDUSTRY VIS-À-VIS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (WHO FCTC) TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE PLIGHT OF TOBACCO FARMERS IN THE COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization and was adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003 and entered into force on 27 February 2005;

WHEREAS, The WHO FCTC was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic and is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government signed the FCTC on September 23, 2003 and concurred by the Senate in its Resolution No. 195;

WHEREAS, as a party to the treaty, the Philippines is required to formulate and implement national laws and regulations containing policies proven to reduce smoking and save lives, such as a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and large, graphic health warning labels that cover at least 30 percent of cigarette packs;

WHEREAS, World Governments are meeting in Uruguay in November 2010 for the Fourth Session of Conference of the Parties (COP4) of the WHO FCTC to review and promote the progress in implementation of the tobacco control;

WHEREAS, the COP4 agenda cover different areas of the treaty, to wit: (a) regulation of the contents of tobacco products and their disclosure, (b) measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation, (c) education, communication, training and public awareness, and (d) recommendations for economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing;

WHEREAS, according to the National Tobacco Administration, there were 43,500 tobacco farmers in 2009. At an average of five members per household, the number of tobacco farmers and their families would thus total 217,500;


WHEREAS, the biggest concern of tobacco farmers is they will lose their livelihood as a result of the government's fulfillment of its obligation under the WHO FCTC;

WHEREAS, WHO FCTC requires parties to promote economically viable alternative livelihoods for farmers and workers and to protect the environment and the health of persons in tobacco cultivation and manufacture;

WHEREAS, there is a need to help tobacco farmers make the transition from tobacco to new crops as our country begin the gradual phase-out of cigarettes;

**RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Health and Demography, and Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the state of tobacco industry vis-a-vis the implementation of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) to help alleviate the plight of tobacco farmers in the country.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**