AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AND DETERMINING A COMMUNITY FOREST IN THE CALINIGAN MOUNTAIN RANGE IN CAMARINES SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

This proposed measure seeks to establish a community forest in the Calinigan Mountain Range in Camarines Sur.

A community forest is a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of DENR for the use of the residents or municipality/barangay from which said residents may plant, re-plant, collect and remove forest products for their personal use in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

Community forestry projects are geared towards the involvement of local communities for better management, regulation and control. It promotes sustainability and empowerment of local communities who have better knowledge of the terrain and are in a better position to respond to emergencies such as poaching and encroachment.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.
AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AND DETERMINING A COMMUNITY FOREST IN
THE CALINIGAN MOUNTAIN RANGE IN CAMARINES SUR, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), a community forest in the Calinigan Mountain Range in Camarines Sur.

The DENR shall determine the size and specific forest limits of the established community forest within the barangay concerned.

SEC. 2. The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the establishment and determination of the community forest, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management, utilization and conservation of the community forest.

The DENR shall, in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest resource inventory and determine the sustainable level of forest resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest management planning to ensure sustainable development. The management plan should include provision for replanting by the communities and the LGUs of the community forests to ensure sustainability.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall include in the Department’s program the establishment of the community forest in the Calinigan Mountain Range in Camarines Sur, the funding of which shall be include in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization and
conservation of the community forest.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,