A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO IDENTIFY MEASURES THAT
CAN BE TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) AND OTHER
CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE A STABLE POWER
SUPPLY DURING THE ROLLOUT OF THE MASS VACCINATION
PROGRAM AGAINST COVID-19

WHEREAS, in 2020, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) urged government agencies to address the impending power shortage in Luzon and other parts of the country in the summer months due to the shift in the way consumers use power;

WHEREAS, the NGCP projected a thin electricity supply in the Summer months between April and June, even with an expected additional 700 megawatt (MW) capacity for new power plants;

WHEREAS, data from the Department of Energy (DOE) shows an increase of 8.3 percent on the estimated total System Peak Demand in May 2020 from the actual peak demand of consumers in 2019, an indicator of increasing demands for electricity during Summer month;

WHEREAS, the NGCP enjoined the Regulator and authorities to “take a closer look at the shifts in peak demand and strategize short term and long term solutions to address the ever increasing need for power vis-à-vis power consumer trends”;

2 Ibid.
WHEREAS, in light of the coronavirus pandemic, the government is targeting to rollout the COVID-19 vaccination program by end of February 2021 and that at least two million Filipinos will be vaccinated by April 2021⁴;

WHEREAS, the first batch of coronavirus vaccines is reported to arrive in the Philippines by February 2021⁵;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez has reported that at least 56 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines made by American pharmaceutical companies are expected to arrive in the Philippines by May ⁶, at a time when the demand surge on power last year was expected;

WHEREAS, the government is eyeing the establishment of cold chain facilities across the country for the COVID-19 vaccines;

WHEREAS, several local government units have also acquired or intend to acquire biomedical freezers and similar facilities to serve as storage for the vaccines;

WHEREAS, any power interruption occurring during this period will affect the viability and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines in cold storage facilities, thus putting them to waste;

WHEREAS, should these circumstances occur, taxpayers’ money will be misspent and millions of Filipinos will be denied the opportunity for health protection from the coronavirus;

WHEREAS, given the importance of successfully implementing the vaccination program, the government must ensure that the program will not be disrupted by power interruptions or any other incidents that could result in power loss;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to direct the House Committee on Energy to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to identify measures that can be taken by the Department of Energy (DOE) and other concerned government agencies to ensure a stable power supply during the rollout of the mass vaccination program against COVID-19.

Adopted,

REP. ALFRED VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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⁵ Ibid.