A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, CALLING WATER DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES RELATIVE TO THE USE OF AVERAGE BILLING SYSTEM FOR WATER CONSUMPTION IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLDS

WHEREAS, water is one of the fundamental ingredients for life on Earth. Human life depends on water in order to function. While people can survive for weeks without food, people can only last for a few days without water. It is the most important resource in the world. Access to clean and safe water should be a natural right. However, in the modern world, this access usually comes with a cost.

WHEREAS, the cost of water has fluctuated several times in the past years. These changes in price greatly affect Filipino families, especially the poor. The inability of consumers to predict how much they will pay for their water consumption monthly usually poses difficulties in budgeting their hard-earned money to cover their basic necessities.

WHEREAS, according to a number of studies, the fluctuation of water prices is generally caused by one factor, which is the changing behavior in consumption depending on the season. Water consumption usually increases during the very hot months in the summer, while consumption decreases as the Ber months approach.

WHEREAS, the changes in season is a constant force of nature. Therefore, the consumption of water will necessarily adjust in accordance to these natural factors.
WHEREAS, the operation and management of public utilities is imbued with public interest. It is incumbent for legislators to inquire on the possibility of providing a more predictable and more consumer-friendly option in terms of water consumption billing.

WHEREAS, the use of the Average Billing System can address the issue of bill fluctuation among consumers, by allowing consumers to pay an average amount every month instead of adapting to the highs and lows of the seasons.

WHEREAS, in this system, the bill amounts for the last 12 months are totaled and divided by 12. Then, the cumulative difference between the monthly average billing amount and what the consumers would owe if they were not signed up for average billing is added or subtracted, before adding other institutional charges.

WHEREAS, if made available to the public, this billing system may be an effective solution in avoiding bill fluctuation, and in making monthly payments more manageable and predictable for the consumers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives that the appropriate committee(s) be directed to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, relative to the possibility of using the average billing system as an option to measure and bill water consumption for Filipino households.

Adopted,

HON. VIRGILIO S. LACSON