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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE GENERATION OF INVESTMENTS FOR THE FRONTIER GEOTHERMAL AREAS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FULLY IMPLEMENTING THE PHILIPPINE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM**

*Whereas*, Section 10 Article XIV states that, “Science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; x x x . It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country’s productive systems and national life”;

*Whereas*, Section 12 Article XIV also states that, “The State shall regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of technology from all sources for the national benefit. It shall encourage the widest participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology”;

*Whereas*, the Philippines, with a capacity of 1,987 MW is the world’s second-biggest producer of geothermal energy after the United States as it accounts for about 17 percent of the generation mix, which means that one in every six light bulbs is powered by geothermal energy;

*Whereas*, in terms of geothermal reserves, the Philippines has been reported to have sufficient resources to produce more than 1,000 MW of additional electricity from geothermal;

*Whereas*, as recently reported, Mindanao, if power grids remain unchecked, is in the verge of power shortage in the next five years, given the prevailing standing capacity of 1,510 megawatts and with the average increase in power requirement of six percent annually, a power deficit is projected to be equivalent to 484 megawatts<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, if this looming energy crisis is left unchecked, then the entire Mindanao grid will be experiencing regular rotating brownouts as early as next year, especially with the coming in of additional new investments that are anticipated to further deplete the grid’s reserve capacity;

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Star, “Power Crisis Looms in Mindanao ” by Edith R. Regalado (Business, December 15, 2009)

*Whereas*, efforts in the development and exploration of frontier areas are currently being considered by the Department of Energy to be undertaken by private firms;

*Whereas*, frontier areas refer to those that have not yet been explored or for which the government has no resource data;

*Whereas*, these prospective undertakings are expected to generate a combined 251 megawatts of geothermal energy;

*Whereas*, with the current state of Mindanao, it cannot afford to have another setback which will derail its development and economic potential and actual growth and that geothermal energy may be able to address this looming problem of power shortage in said region; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to express support to efforts of the Department of Energy in the development and in the generation of investments for the frontier geothermal areas with the end in view of fully implementing the Philippine Rural Electrification Program.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator