



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

All Bureau Directors

All Regional Executive Directors

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOUSE BILL 9124 OR "AN ACT TO MANDATE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO PROCURE AND UTILIZE EARTH BALLING MACHINES PER REGION IN THE CONDUCT OF ROAD WIDENING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR" FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 26 July 2024

In response to the electronic letter dated 25 July 2024 from the Committee on Public Works and Highways of the House of Representatives requesting for the Department's comments and recommendations on **House Bill No. 9124** or:

AN ACT TO MANDATE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO PROCURE AND UTILIZE EARTH BALLING MACHINES PER REGION IN THE CONDUCT OF ROAD WIDENING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR" authored by Representative Richard I. Gomez and Salvador A. Pleyto.

We respectfully request for comments and recommendations on the abovementioned bill, as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them on or before **Friday, 02 August 2024, at 5 PM** via email at denrll@denr.gov.ph.

Attached herewith are the Letter-Request and the House bill for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS&HIGHWAYS

3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra Building, CTSS-I, Committee Affairs Department, House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, Philippines 1126. Telefax: 9310200, Trunk Line: 9315001 local 7135

25 July 2024

HON. MANUEL M. BONOAN

Secretary

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

HON. ARSENIO M. BALISACAN

Secretary

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
NEDA Building, Amber Ave., Pasig City

HON. AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN

Secretary

Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
General Solano St.,
San Miguel, Manila

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

HON. ATTY. BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, JR.

Secretary

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, Edsa cor. Quezon Ave. Quezon City

HON. MARK LLANDRO L. MENDOZA

Secretary

Office of the President
Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head, Presidential Legislative Liaison
Office (OP-PLLO)
New Executive Bldg., Malacañang, Manila

Your Honors:

The Committee on Public Works and Highways would like to request for your comments and recommendations on **House Bill No. 9124** entitled: **"An Act to Mandate the Department of Public Works and Highways to Procure and Utilize Earth Balling Machines Per Region in the Conduct of Road Widening and Other Development Projects and Appropriate Funds Therefor."**

Attached herewith is the copy of the above-mentioned measure for your reference.

You may also download a copy of the said bill at www.congress.gov.ph. The committee will conduct a committee hearing regarding the matter and would highly appreciate receiving your comments/recommendations on or before **August 10, 2024**.

Thank you and best regards.

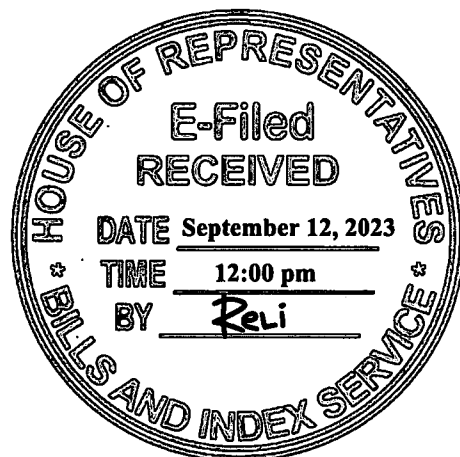
Sincerely,

FOR THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN ROMEO S. MOMO SR.:



AILEEN UY DAPURAN
Committee Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9124

Introduced by Representatives Richard I. Gomez, DPA and Salvador A. Pleyto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our country's pursuit of national progress and the enhancement of economic opportunities, including infrastructure development must align with the principles enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. This bill seeks to ensure that the constitutional mandates of promoting equitable economic growth, ensuring social justice, including the advancement of vital transportation networks, are undertaken while safeguarding our natural heritage.

The 1987 Constitution, across its various sections, highlights the importance of economic development while stressing the need to safeguard our natural resources and environment. In Article XII, Section 2, the Constitution articulates that the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources should benefit the nation and its people without compromising the health of present and future generations. Furthermore, Article II, Section 16 recognizes the state's duty to protect and advance the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology in harmony with nature.

This House bill proposes introducing the deployment and use of advanced technology in our road widening projects through the utilization of earth balling machines. An earth balling machine is a mechanized apparatus specifically designed to relocate trees that obstruct road-widening efforts. The primary advantage of employing such machines is their ability to safely transplant trees and ensuring their survival post transfer, thereby eliminating the need to fell these valuable components of our ecosystem.

Earth balling involves carefully excavating a tree from its current location, preserving a substantial portion of its root system within a soil ball, and subsequently transplanting it to a new

site. This method guarantees the survival and continued growth of the transplanted tree, thereby maintaining the environmental balance and ecological integrity of the area. This process is essential as it allows for the coexistence of infrastructure development and environmental sustainability.

Automating the earth-balling process is crucial due to its labor-intensive nature. Traditional manual transplantation requires a significant workforce and often leads to delays and increased costs. By integrating mechanization, we can enhance the efficiency of our road-widening projects while minimizing the environmental impact.

This aims to align our road-widening initiatives with the principles of responsible economic development and environmental preservation. By harnessing the capabilities of a tree-balling machine, we can usher in a new era of infrastructure growth that harmoniously coexists with the natural world.

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



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA
4th District, Leyte



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO
6th District, Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9124

Introduced by Representatives Richard I. Gomez, DPA and Salvador A. Pleyto

AN ACT
TO MANDATE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO
PROCURE AND UTILIZE EARTH BALLING MACHINES PER REGION IN THE
CONDUCT OF ROAD WIDENING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS
AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Earth Balling Machinery Procurement* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is hereby mandated to procure, maintain, and utilize, at least one (1) set of machinery known as ‘earth balling equipment’ per region. This machinery shall be used exclusively to preserve and relocate trees affected by the department's road widening and other developmental projects, as may be evaluated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SEC. 2. *Funding* – The initial budget required for the procurement of the earth balling machines shall be sourced from the DPWH's available funds.

Subsequent funding for the maintenance, operation, and additional earth balling machinery procurement shall be included in the regular budget of the DPWH in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Secretary of the DPWH and the Secretary of the DENR shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations to ensure the proper implementation of this Act, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,