



**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
Knowledge Information Systems Service

All Bureau Directors

The Officer-In-Charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING ON HOUSE BILL NO. 8791 OR "AN ACT TO PROMOTE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY," AND HOUSE BILL NO. 9791, OR AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FRAMEWORK FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY" FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 31 July 2024

In reference to the electronic mail received by our Office, the Committee on Economic Affairs of the House of Representatives is inviting the Department to a **Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on 06 August 2024, Tuesday, 01:00 PM at Conference Rooms 1&2, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives** to deliberate on the following legislative measures, to wit:

- **HOUSE BILL 8791 - "AN ACT TO PROMOTE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY,"** introduced by Representative Antonio B. Legarda, Jr. and co-authored by Representative Eduardo Roa Rama, Jr.; and
- **HOUSE BILL NO. 9791 - "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FRAMEWORK FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND**

CONSUMPTION AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY," introduced by Representative Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez.

In this regard, may we request if there are additional **comments/recommendations** on the abovementioned bills in anticipation of the Committee meeting, as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them on or before **05 August 2024, at 5 PM** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the electronic mail, Agenda, copies of the House bills, and the draft Substitute bill that can be accessed through this bit.ly/3Yr7tgg for your reference.



ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs

OSEC-2024-004556: Invitation to the TWG Meeting on August 6, 2024

2 messages

Office of the DENR Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 3:49 PM

To: DENR Legislative Liaison Office <denrlo@denr.gov.ph>

Cc: Undersecretary for Special Concern and Legislative Affairs <ouscla@denr.gov.ph>, Ignatius Rodriguez <iarodriguez@denr.gov.ph>, Joe-Mar Perez <jperez@denr.gov.ph>, Marilou Ermi <merni@denr.gov.ph>, Joaquin Yulo Loyzaga <jloyzaga@denr.gov.ph>, DENR HEA <denr_hea@denr.gov.ph>, DENR OSEC Referral <osec.referral@denr.gov.ph>

Mabuhay!

This is to respectfully refer, for information and appropriate action, the email below.

We will appreciate informing the Office of the Secretary (OSEC), citing document number OSEC-2024-004556, of the action taken on the matter.

Thank you!

Office of the Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

----- Forwarded message -----

From: House Committee on Economic Affairs <committee.economicaffairs@house.gov.ph>

Date: Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 2:32 PM

Subject: Invitation to the TWG Meeting on August 6, 2024

To: Secretary <Secretary@dti.gov.ph>, ccc.ils@climate.gov.ph <ccc.ils@climate.gov.ph>, Benjamin Abalos Jr. <bcabalosjr@dilg.gov.ph>, osec@dilg.gov.ph <osec@dilg.gov.ph>, Office of the DENR Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>, dlo-dost@dost.gov.ph <dlo-dost@dost.gov.ph>, osec@dost.gov.ph <osec@dost.gov.ph>, CeferinoRodolfo@dti.gov.ph <CeferinoRodolfo@dti.gov.ph>, Office of the Secretary DOTr <osec@dotr.gov.ph>, Bonoan, Manuel M. <bonoan.manuel@dpwh.gov.ph>, FDAODG <odg@fda.gov.ph>, NAST Secretariat <secretariat@nast.dost.gov.ph>, NEDA Office of the Secretary <osec@neda.gov.ph>, recordsco@emb.gov.ph <recordsco@emb.gov.ph>, PIDS-OP <pids-op@pids.gov.ph>, PPP Center Public Info Group <info@ppp.gov.ph>

31 July 2024

TO: Board of Investments (BOI)
Climate Change Commission (CCC)
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
Department of Transportation (DoTR)
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
National Solid Waste Management Commission
Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)
Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
Public Private Partnership (PPP) Center

The Committee on Economic Affairs will conduct its **Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on 6 August 2024 (Tuesday), 1:00 P.M.** at Conference Rooms 1&2, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives, to deliberate on the following measures, to wit:

- a. **House Bill No. 8791**, entitled "An Act to Promote a Circular Economy", introduced by Representative Antonio B. Legarda, Jr.; and
- b. **House Bill No. 9791**, entitled "An Act Providing for A Framework for Circular Economy to Promote Sustainable Production and Consumption and National Economic Security", introduced by Representative Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Ph.D.

In relation to this, the Committee cordially invites you, or your designated representative, to attend the aforementioned TWG meeting as a resource person to share your insights and comments.

Attached are the materials for your reference.

For confirmation of attendance and other related inquiries, please contact our office via telephone at (02) 8931 5001 local 7141 or email at committee.economicaffairs@house.gov.ph.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this invitation and its attachments.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

HON. JOSE FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ, PH. D.
Chairperson
Technical Working Group on the Proposed Philippine Circular Economy Act

For the Chairperson:

(Sgd.)
ATTY. MA. LUZ CONCEPCION M. BALDUEZA-PRINCIPE
Committee Secretary



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

A G E N D A

*August 6, 2024, (Tuesday), 1:00 P.M.
Conference Rooms 1&2, Ramon V. Mitra Building*

- I. Call to Order
- II. Acknowledgement of Members and Resource Persons/Guests
- III. Preliminary Remarks by TWG Chairperson

Hon. Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez
Negros Occidental, Third District
- IV. **Continuation of the Deliberation on the following House Bills:**
 - a. **House Bill No. 8791** entitled “An Act to Promote a Circular Economy”, introduced by Representative Antonio B. Legarda, Jr.
 - b. **House Bill No. 9791** entitled “An Act Providing for A Framework for Circular Economy to Promote Sustainable Production and Consumption and National Economic Security”, introduced by Representative Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez
- V. **Consideration and Approval of the Proposed Unnumbered House Bill, in substitution of House Bills Numbered 8791 and 9791, entitled “An Act Providing for a Framework for Circular Economy to Promote Sustainable Production and Consumption, and National Economic Security,”** by Representatives Antonio B. Legarda, Jr., Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, Ph.D., Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr., Christian Tell A. Yap, Wilbert “Manoy” T. Lee, Eduardo Roa Rama, Jr., Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuason, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Rufus Rodriguez, Roy M. Loyola, Joel Chua, Edward Maceda, Michael Gorriceta, Leody Tarriela, Joey Sarte Salceda, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Stella Luz Quimbo, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, and Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang
- VI. **Adjournment**

<i>Invited Guests</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Investments (BOI) • Climate Change Commission (CCC) • Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulo • Makati Business Club • Nestle Philippines, Inc. • PCX Solutions • PLDT Inc./Smart Communications, Inc.



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</i>• <i>Department of Science and Technology (DOST)</i>• <i>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)</i>• <i>Department of Transportation (DoTR)</i>• <i>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)</i>• <i>Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</i>• <i>National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)</i>• <i>National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)</i>• <i>National Solid Waste Management Commission</i>• <i>Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)</i>• <i>Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)</i>• <i>Public Private Partnership Center (PPP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability, Inc. (PARMS)</i>• <i>Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST)</i>• <i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i>
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Note: No media access, no livestreaming and to be posted in the House schedule of committee meetings

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HB 8791 AND 9791 COMPARATIVE MATRIX
WITH AGENCY COMMENTS

House Bill No. 8791	House Bill No. 9791	REMARKS/COMMENTS
Introduced by Rep. Antonio B. Legarda	Introduced by Rep. Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez	
Co-Authored by Rep. Eduardo Roa Rama, Jr.		
<p style="text-align: center;">AN ACT TO PROMOTE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FRAMEWORK FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION, AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS</p>	
Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Circular Economy Act."	Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Circular Economy Act."	
<p>Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature and promote sustainable development. In line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Philippines adopts the goals of making cities and human settlements inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns, taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, and restoring natural ecosystems, in line with national development priorities and capacities. Towards this end, the State shall prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products, particularly marine litter, on the environment, and human health, as well as promote the transition to a circular</p>	<p>SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote sustainable development as catalyst of economic self-sufficiency and human development, and as foundation of economic security. The State recognizes the imperative for economic transformation to fulfill the needs of present and future generations without compromising ecological balance and violating planetary boundaries. Accordingly, the State shall foster innovation to build circularity, promote decarbonization, enhance resource efficiency, prevent waste and pollution, improve waste management, reduce ecological and material footprint across industries, avert the depletion of natural resources and the destruction of natural ecosystems, and strengthen economic, social</p>	<p>DOST: In the last sentence, replace the phrase "certain plastic products" with the word "wastes," since the concept of "circular economy" covers all materials (including plastics) that can be recycled, reused, re-manufactured, composted, extracted for new materials.</p> <p>Should the original phrase "certain plastic products" be retained, this may appear discriminatory on the part of plastic producers/manufacturers even among those who are compliant with our laws and regulations because they are singled out. Furthermore, there is a need to distinguish what plastic products would be covered because of the adjective "certain."</p>

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<p>economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products, and materials.</p>	<p>and ecological resilience. The State shall promote behavior modification of individuals towards sustainable consumption and change in mindset to strengthen environmental responsibility.</p>	<p>CCC: As the Philippines confronts the realities of climate change, the urgency to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and foster climate-resilient systems has never been more pronounced. The recently approved Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underscored that reducing industry GHG emissions entails coordinated action throughout value chains to promote all mitigation options, including demand management, energy and materials efficiency, circular material flows, as well as abatement technologies and transformational changes in production processes.</p> <p>Transitioning towards a circular economy is not merely an economic imperative but also an environmental and social imperative of paramount significance. The circular economy model embodies a paradigm shift from the linear model to one predicated on resource efficiency, recycling, and reuse. This transition fosters innovation, bolsters economic resilience, encourages behavioral change towards sustainable consumption and production, and promotes inclusive growth, thereby laying the foundation for a sustainable future.</p> <p>The Circularity Gap Report 2023 brings into focus the pivotal role of circular strategies in reducing potential warming and, through integration, will create pathways toward the achievement of climate goals.</p>
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		<p>The proposed measures on circular economy can be viewed as enabling instruments that will aid in the short-, medium-, and long-term goals and objectives in addressing climate change and its impacts, as outlined in the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028, Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, and reflected in the draft National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan – all geared towards a achieving a low carbon, climate-smart, climate-resilient, and sustainable development.</p>
	<p>SEC. 3. Principles. – The State shall catalyze transition to inclusive, sustainable, self-sufficient, resilient, low-carbon, circular economy, guided by the following principles:</p> <p>(a) Every person has the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;</p> <p>(b) Ecological integrity contributes to human well-being and the full enjoyment of all human rights, for present and future generations;</p> <p>(c) Every person has the responsibility for environmental quality and conservation of nature;</p> <p>(d) The capacity of nature to replenish and regenerate renewable resources must be maintained, and where this capacity is disrupted, it must be restored or improved;</p> <p>(e) Human activities are impacting the climate system, and circular economy strategies are integral to decarbonization and climate change mitigation and adaptation;</p>	<p>NEDA on HB 9791: Recommend focusing its provisions on the following due to the overarching objective of the bill:</p> <p>a. Institutionalization and acceleration of the implementation of the PAP4SCP;</p> <p>b. Advancement of research and development on innovative products, production processes, and digital solutions that optimize the use of natural resources;</p> <p>c. Generation of quality and decent jobs and reskilling activities to facilitate a just and inclusive transition;</p> <p>d. Utilization of existing institutional arrangements (e.g. DBCC Subcommittee on Sustainable Development Goals_ to oversee the overall implementation of the CE framework and initiatives; and</p> <p>e. Raising public awareness on the importance of circular economy through targeted information, education, and communication (IEC) activities.</p>

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	<p>(f) Local and indigenous knowledge, systems thinking, futures thinking, design thinking, and science, technology and innovation are vital to achieving sustainable development;</p> <p>(g) Promotion of circular economy shall take into account technological feasibility and industrial capacity;</p> <p>(h) Transition to circular economy must take into account the imperatives of just transition and environmental justice, and ensure that it contributes to providing decent work for all, promoting participatory environmental governance and social inclusion, and eradicating poverty;</p>	
<p>Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined:</p> <p>a) Alternative delivery systems shall refer to sustainable eco-friendly apparatuses or processes for storing and dispensing different retail items, goods, and consumer products;</p>	<p>SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined:</p>	<p>DOST suggests defining the ff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Linear Economy b. Linear Production System c. Associated Externalities d. Virgin material inputs e. Product Lifecycle
<p>b) Assimilating capacity assessment shall refer to an assessment of the assimilative capacity of a certain ecosystem, which is the ability to accommodate a particular activity or rate of an activity (usually pertaining to waste and residuals-producing activities such as the discharge of contaminants), without unacceptable impact;</p>		<p>NEDA: Remove the terms “Assimilating capacity assessment”, “Biocapacity capacity assessment”, and “Carry capacity assessment” since they are not used or mentioned in the bill. The various types of environmental capacity assessment can be integrated into the definition of “Capacity assessment”.</p>

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<p>c) Biocapacity assessment shall refer to an assessment of the biocapacity which is the ability of biologically productive ecosystems to provide the resources and services used by humanity;</p>		<p>See the definition of "Capacity assessment"</p>
	<p>a) Baseline scenario refers to the description of the state of society and the environment in which no new environmental policies are implemented apart from those already in the pipeline today; or in which these policies do not have a discernable influence regarding the questions being analysed;</p>	
<p>d) Business enterprises shall refer to establishments engaged in the production, manufacturing, processing, repacking, assembly, or sale of goods and/or services, including service-oriented enterprises. It shall include self-employed or own-account workers, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and community-based business enterprises;</p>		<p>DOT: Adopt the definition of Business Enterprises in HB 8791 which includes micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Notably, HB 8791 does not make a distinction of the type of industries to be prioritized for transition to circular economy. In contrast, HB 9791 excludes MSMEs in the classification of business enterprises in "Covered Activities."</p>
	<p>b) Business operations refer to the activities, processes, and systems that an enterprise undertakes to produce goods or services and generate revenue, from procurement and production to sales.</p>	
<p>e) Capacity assessment shall refer to the generic term for the following sub- classifications: carrying capacity assessment, biocapacity assessment and assimilating capacity assessment. The assessments shall focus on ecosystem and environment-related systems of interest;</p>		<p>NEDA: "Capacity assessment" shall refer to a comprehensive evaluation of an ecosystem's ability to sustainably support and interact with various activities. This includes, but is not limited, to its ability to handle and neutralize activities producing waste or contaminants, the potential of its biologically productive areas to provide renewable resources and services, and the maximum</p>

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		number of individuals or activities it can support without degradation.
f) Carrying capacity assessment shall refer to an assessment of the carrying capacity of a certain ecosystem, which is the maximum number of people, or individuals of a particular species, that a given area of the environment can sustain without causing environmental, economic or socio-cultural stress or damage;	c) Carrying capacity assessment refers to an assessment of the carrying capacity of a certain ecosystem, which is the maximum number of people, or individuals of a particular species, that a given area of the environment can sustain without causing environmental, economic or socio-cultural stress or damage;	NEDA: Remove the term "Carrying capacity assessment" since it is not used or mentioned in the bill. See the definition of "Capacity assessment"
	d) Choice-editing refers to process of influencing consumer choice by removing products that may have a negative impact on the environment;	
g) Circular economy shall refer to a system approach wherein products are designed for durability, reuse and recyclability, and materials for new products come from old products. It minimizes waste and maximizes the use of natural resources;	e) Circular economy shall refer to an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing, and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning. This intends to efficiently utilize resources by its continual use, and aims to retain the highest utility and value of products, components and materials at all times, through sharing, leasing, reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling in an almost closed loop;	DepEd: The definition of "Circular economy" must be aligned with the definition below based on the ebook, OECD (2020). <i>The Circular Economy in the Cities and Regions: Synthesis Report</i> , OECD Urban Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris. "Circular Economy" is a guiding framework whereby services (e.g. from water to waster and energy) are provided making efficient use of natural resources as primary materials and optimizing their reuse; economic activities are planned and carried out in a way to close, slow and narrow loops across value chains; and infrastructures are designed and build to avoid linear lock-in (e.g. district heating, smart grid, etc.) NEDA: "Circular Economy" shall refer to an economic model creating value by extending product lifespan

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		<p>through improved design and servicing and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning. This intends to efficiently utilize resources by its continual use and aims to retain the highest utility and value of products, components, and materials at all times, though sharing, leasing, reuse, repair, refurbishment and recycling in an almost closed loop.</p> <p>DOST: "Circular Economy" shall be defined as a system approach wherein products are designed for durability, reuse and recyclability.</p> <p>NAST: Instead of "maximizing resources" it may be better to use the word "optimizing."</p> <p>DA: Align the definition of "Circular Economy" with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 and Republic Act 11898 or the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022.</p>
	<p>f) Circular agriculture refers to a method of producing food that safeguards agro-ecosystems, prevents losses and waste of biomass and nutrients, reuses and recycles unavoidable residual streams iaccon an efficient way and minimizes the use of energy using minimal amounts of external inputs, closing nutrients loops, regenerating soils, and minimizing the impact on the environment;</p>	
	<p>g) Circular infrastructure refers to infrastructure that enables re-use, recycling, or recovery of waste, or</p>	

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	minimizes or eliminates the amount of virgin raw materials used across the infrastructure lifecycle or supply chain, thereby reducing the embodied carbon of infrastructure assets, and helping maintain the security of the supply of critical raw materials)	
	h) Circular procurement refers to the process by which public authorities purchase works, goods or services that seek to contribute to closed energy and material loops within supply chains, to minimize, and in the best case avoid, negative environmental impacts and waste creation across their whole life-cycle;	
	i) Circular production refers to a production process designed to close the loop of materials, components, and products through multiple lifecycles;	
h) Collection shall refer to the act of gathering and/or removal of solid waste from a source or from a communal storage point and/or facility;		
i) Consumer shall refer to a natural person who is a purchaser, lessee, recipient or prospective purchaser, lessor or recipient of consumer products, services or credit, pursuant to the defined terms under Republic Act No. 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines;	j) Consumer refers to a natural person who is a purchaser, lessee, recipient or prospective purchaser, lessor or recipient of consumer products, services or credit, pursuant to the defined terms under Republic Act No. 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines;	<p>NEDA: Revise the definition of Consumer since the definitions in the bill adopted from RA No. 7394 are anchored on a consumer protection framework. This may not adequately address the distinct environment responsibilities that both consumers and producers hold in the context of the circular economy.</p> <p>"Consumers" are involved not just in purchasing but also in sustainable usage and participation in recycling or reuse initiatives. Additionally, limiting the definition of "Consumer" to natural persons could dilute the proposed</p>

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		measure's effectiveness. Entities like corporations and institutions also consume significant resources for consumption use, not just production.
	k) Critical raw materials refer to raw materials for which there are no viable substitutes with current technologies, and which have high supply risks;	
	l) Decarbonization refers to the process of significantly reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the atmosphere;	
	m) Dematerialization refers to the reduction of the quantities of materials needed to serve an economic function, or the decline over time in the mass of materials used in industrial end products;	
j) Ecological footprint shall refer to human demand/activity on the biosphere, the extent to which the regenerative capacity of the planet is being used by human activities, and related methods of assessing or computing the same.	n) Ecological footprint refers to human demand on the biosphere, the extent to which the regenerative capacity of the planet is being used by human activities, and related methods of assessing or computing the same;	NEDA: Revise the definition of "Ecological footprint". – "Ecological footprint shall refer to the impact of human demand or activity on the biosphere."
	o) Eco-design refers to an approach to integrating environmental considerations in the product development process or system to make the lowest possible environmental impact throughout the product life cycle, from the extraction of raw materials to production, distribution, use to recycling, repair, and disposal;	

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	p) Eco-Innovation refers to any innovation, including the development and use of new technologies and organization changes, that reduces impacts on the environment, increases resilience to environmental pressures or uses natural resources more efficiently;	
	q) Economic security refers to the ability of people to meet and cover their basic needs consistently and sustainably;	
	r) Economic self-sufficiency refers to the ability to produce goods and services for domestic consumption without dependence on external resources;	
	s) Environmental risk refers to the likelihood of a project or activity causing harm to natural ecosystems;	
	t) Enterprise refers to an establishment engaged in the production, manufacturing, processing, repacking, assembly, or sale of goods or services. It shall include self-employed or own-account workers, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and community-based business enterprises;	
	u) Fast-moving consumer goods refer to nondurable products that need to be sold, usually at a low cost, and consumed within a set duration;	
	v) Green design refers to an approach to building that minimizes the harmful effects of construction projects on human health and the environment;	
	w) Green financing refers to the process of increasing level of financial flows from the public, private and non-profit sectors to sustainable development priorities,	

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	<p>primarily developing financial products and services, and investment vehicles to support enterprises that produce goods and services, or develops technologies that are aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving environmental-friendly performance levels over time;</p>	
	<p>x) Green infrastructure refers to a network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, such as water purification, improving air quality, providing space for recreation and enhancing biodiversity;</p>	
	<p>y) Green technology refers to technology that is used to make industrial processes and business operations more environment-friendly, less resource-intensive, less carbon-intensive, and less polluting;</p>	
	<p>z) Green premiums refer to the additional cost a consumer pays for choosing to buy a more sustainably made product or service compared to conventionally-made alternatives;</p>	
	<p>aa) High climate impact sectors refer to sectors with significant contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact which play a key role to the low-carbon transition;</p>	
<p>k) Incentives shall refer to incentives provided for under RA No. 9520 otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, RA No. 9178 otherwise known as the Barangay Micro-Business Enterprise Act of 2002, RA No. 9501 otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Micro, Small</p>		<p>NEDA: Remove "Incentives" from the definition of terms. Anchoring it to specific existing laws might hinder its adaptability to future policy changes. By removing the definition, it grants more flexibility for the proposed</p>

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<p>and Medium Enterprises, Executive Order No. 226 otherwise known as the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987, RA No. 10771 otherwise known as the Green Jobs Act of 2016 or incentives as defined by the local government unit through an ordinance specifically for the purpose of this Act, where applicable;</p>		<p>measure to provide new incentives as may be necessary to promote a circular economy.</p> <p>Alternatively, the following definition may also be considered for adoption: <i>"Incentives" shall refer to benefits or advantages provided to encourage specific behaviors or actions in line with the objectives of this Act. This includes incentives stipulated under RA No. 9520 otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, RA No. 9178 otherwise known as the Barangay Microbusiness Enterprise Act of 2002, RA No. 9501 otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Executive Order No. 226 otherwise known as the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987, RA No. 10771 otherwise known as the Green Jobs Act of 2016, any incentives defined by local government units through ordinances specifically for the purposes of this Act, and any incentives granted under subsequent laws, where applicable.</i></p>
	<p>bb) Infrastructure needs assessment refers to the assessment of present and prospective conditions, needs and costs with regards to water, sewerage, transportation, broadband and solid waste facilities that are required to transition to circular economy;</p>	
	<p>cc) Intervention scenario refers to the description of the future state of society and the environment under influence of directed environmental policies;</p>	

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	dd) Life cycle analysis refers to a systematic analysis of environmental impact over the course of the entire life cycle of a product, material, service or process;	
	ee) Major capital project refers to a program costing at least PhP500 million and involves investments in physical and human capital through expenditures or transfers by the National Government;	
	ff) Material flow analysis refers to the systematic assessment of the flows and stocks of materials and substances within a system in a defined space during a defined period, including volumes, costs, and risks of safe disposal;	
	gg) Material footprint refers to total amount of raw materials extracted to manufacture or provide the goods and services to meet consumption demands;	
	hh) Mono-material refers to a product composed of a single material or fibre, and are typically easier to recycle;	
i) Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation or Environment and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation shall refer to a process that provides a systematic way to measure and report on stocks and flows of natural capital, recognizing the environment as an asset that must be maintained and managed;		NEDA: "Natural capital accounting (NCA)" is an umbrella term covering efforts to use of an accounting framework to provide a systematic way to measure and report on stocks and flows of natural capital. Its underlying premise is that since the environment is important to society and the economy, it should be recognized as an asset that must be maintained and managed, and its contributions (service) be better integrated into commonly used frameworks like the System of National Accounts.

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		<p>PSA: Limit the term "Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation or Environment and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation" to "Natural Capital Accounting" only and to consider the international definition under the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) 2012 Central Framework being adopted by countries as follows:</p> <p><i>"Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)" refers to the umbrella term on efforts to use an accounting framework to provide a systematic way of measuring and reporting on stocks and flows on natural capital. NCA covers accounting for individual environment assets or natural resources, both biotic and abiotic (e.g., water, minerals, energy, timber, and fish), as well as accounting for ecosystem assets (e.g., forests; wetlands), biodiversity, and ecosystem services.</i></p> <p>NAST: Accounting should include exports and imports. Exporting cheap raw materials and importing expensive processed materials should be minimized.</p> <p>DENR: "Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation or Environment and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation" shall refer to a process that provides a systematic way to measure the contribution to human consumption and report on stocks and flows of natural capital, recognizing the environment as an asset that must be maintained and managed;</p>
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	<p>ii) Non-wood forest products refer to goods for human and industrial consumption derived from renewable forest resources and biomass, including plants used for food, fuel, medicine, fiber and biochemicals;</p>	<p>NAST: In addition to bioresources, georesources should be included to achieve a circular economy. These two are linked in many ways. (Maps of the geological and mineral resources of a province can be obtained from the Regional Offices of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau)</p>
<p>m) Permaculture shall refer to an innovative framework for creating sustainable ways of living. It is a practical method of developing ecologically harmonious, efficient, and productive systems. The application of permaculture principles enables households, communities, and businesses to creatively re-design their environment with less energy and resources;</p>	<p>jj) Permaculture shall refer to an innovative framework for creating sustainable ways of living. It is a practical method of developing ecologically harmonious, efficient, add productive systems. The application of permaculture principles enables households, communities, and businesses to creatively re-design their environment with less energy and resources;</p>	<p>NAST: consider "Regenerative Farming" in addition to permaculture.</p> <p>CHATGPT defines regenerative farming as one placing a stronger emphasis on soil health and carbon sequestration as key strategies for sustainability. Both approaches offer valuable frameworks for creating resilient and sustainable agricultural systems.</p>
<p>n) Producer shall also refer to a manufacturer which has been defined under RA No. 7394 as "any person who manufactures, assembles, or processes consumer products, except that if the goods are manufactured, assembled or processed for another person who attaches his own brand name to the consumer products, the latter shall be deemed the manufacturer. In case of imported products, the manufacturer's representative or, in his absence, the importer, shall be deemed the manufacturer";</p>		<p>NEDA: Revise the definitions of "Producer" since the definitions in the bill adopted from RA No. 7394 are anchored on a consumer protection framework. This may not adequately address the distinct environment responsibilities that both consumers and producers hold in the context of the circular economy.</p> <p>For instance, "Producers", in an environmental context, do not only have responsibilities related to sustainable sourcing and eco-friendly production, but also play a pivotal role in waste management and ensuring product disposability or recyclability.</p>

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		DA: Include the following definition of primary producer lifted from PDP 2023-2028: <i>"Primary producer refers to a person or organizations producing basic agricultural commodities, such as farmer or fisherfolk".</i>
	kk) Product stewardship refers to an environmental management strategy that means whoever designs, produces, sells, or uses a product takes responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the products' life cycle, including end-of-life management;	
o) Recovery or Resources recovery shall refer to the collection, extraction or recovery of recyclable materials from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling, generating energy or producing a product suitable for beneficial use;	ll) Recovery refers to the collection, extraction or recovery of recyclable materials from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling, generating energy or producing a product suitable for beneficial use;	-same as-
p) Recycling shall refer to the treatment of used or waste materials through a process of making them suitable for beneficial use and for other purposes, and includes any process by which solid waste materials are transformed into new products in such a manner that the original product may lose their identity, and which may be used as raw materials for the production of other goods or services;	mm) Recycling refers to the treatment of used or waste materials through a process of making them suitable for beneficial use and for other purposes, and includes any process by which solid waste materials are transformed into new products in such a manner that the original product may lose their identity, and which may be used as raw materials for the production of other goods or services;	-same as-
	nn) Renewable resources refer to natural resources that, after exploitation, can return to their previous stock levels by natural processes of growth or replenishment;	
	oo) Resource intensity refers to the measure of the resources, such as water, energy and materials,	

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	required to produce, process, or dispose of a unit of goods or services, or to complete a process or activity;	
q) Single-use plastics shall refer to plastic products which are not conceived, designed and placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span/cycle, multiple usage or rotations such as being returned to the producer for refill or reused for the same purpose for which it was conceived. These include, but are not limited to, items such as grocery bags, food packaging films and bags, straws, stirrers, containers, styrofoam/styros, cups, sachets and plastic cutlery;	pp) Single-use plastic product refers to a product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and that is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to the producer for refill or reused for the same purpose for which it was conceived;	
	qq) Secondary raw materials refer to recycled materials or recyclates that can be used in manufacturing processes instead of or alongside virgin raw materials;	
	rr) Strategic environmental assessment refers to the systematic process for evaluating the environmental implications of a proposed policy, plan or programme and provides means for looking at cumulative effects and appropriately address them at the earliest stage of decision making alongside economic and social considerations;	
	ss) Supply chain traceability refers to the identification and tracking of the movement of a product throughout the supply chain, from the origins of the raw materials to end-use and end-of-life disposal;	
	ss) Supply chain traceability refers to the identification and tracking of the movement of a	

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	product throughout the supply chain, from the origins of the raw materials to end-use and end-of-life disposal;	
r) Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) shall refer to the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of further generations.	tt) Sustainable materials management refers to a systematic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycles;	
s) Source reduction refers to the reduction of solid waste before it enters the solid waste stream by methods such as product design, materials substitution, materials reuse, and packaging restrictions.	uu) Source reduction refers to the reduction of solid waste before it enters the solid waste stream by methods such as product design, materials substitution, materials reuse, and packaging restrictions	-same as-
	vv) Technology needs assessment refers to a systematic method of analyzing current technology, and future technology requirements to achieve circular economy goals, to identify gaps and technological solutions needed to address the identified gaps or constraints;	
	ww) Virgin raw materials refer to anything extracted directly from nature without processing;	
	xx) Waste analysis and characterization refers to the process of identifying the quantity or volume, and composition of solid wastes generated from various sources.	

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Sec. 4. Scope. – This Act shall apply to producers and consumers involved in value chains of all goods, products, services, and processes contributing to the Philippine economy, and to the mechanisms facilitating the policy, regulatory, and advocacy measures to promote, implement, monitor, and evaluate the strategies on circular economy, complementing thereby the goals and targets of sustainable consumption and production.

The activities contemplated in this Act cover the interplay between the public and private sectors, as well as national, subnational, regional, and global stakeholders, taking into consideration the trajectories under the better normal or green recovery directions consistent with the national economy and planet-people-nature nexus.

In pursuing the circular economy, the following value creation principles, which underpin the transition from a value chain to a value circle perspective, shall be adhered to:

a. The "inner circle" refers to minimizing comparative materials use vis-à-vis the linear production system. The tighter the circle, i.e. the less a product has to be changed in reuse, refurbishment, and remanufacturing and the faster it returns to use, the higher the potential savings on the shares of material, labor, energy, and capital still embedded in the product, and the associated externalities (such as greenhouse gas emissions, water, and toxicity).

NEDA: Remove the section discussing the concepts of "inner circle", "circling longer", "cascaded use", "pure inputs", and other items explaining the principles of a circular economy. The implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) or a corresponding document containing Guidelines on the matter may be subsequently issued better suited for discussing these concepts in more detail.

DENR: The transition to circular economy is complex, hence, a framework that would serve as guide for all stakeholders should be provided.

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<p>b. The "circling longer" refers to maximizing the number of consecutive cycles (be it repair, reuse, or full remanufacturing) and/or the time in each cycle. Each prolonged cycle avoids the material, energy and labor of creating a new product or component;</p> <p>c. The "cascaded use" refers to diversifying reuse across the value chain or transforming materials across product categories to offset the need for virgin material inputs;</p> <p>d. The "pure inputs" postulates that uncontaminated material streams increase collection and redistribution efficiency while maintaining quality, particularly of technical materials, which in turn extends product longevity and thus increases material productivity.</p> <p>e. The utmost need to remove the use of toxic chemicals and hazardous substances in the production of goods and products. The elimination of toxicity in the production line will protect workers' health and guarantee safe and clean recycling processes throughout the product's lifecycle; and</p> <p>f. All products are designed to avoid waste leakage into the oceans and environment and must meet the guaranteed minimum number of recycling cycles per material.</p>		
	<p>CHAPTER II CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY FRAMEWORK</p> <p>SEC. 5. Circular Economy Strategy Framework. – There shall be a Circular Economy Strategy Framework (CESF), to be formulated within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, by the National Economic and Development Authority.</p>	<p>COA: suggests the following"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carrying capacity assessment of natural ecosystems is one of the components to be included in the CESF and that could possibly be a subject matter on environmental audit.

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	<p>The CESF shall include the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Circular economy as an anchor of government policies, procedures and plans to promote economic security;(b) Model for circular economy that identifies sources of value creation, value streams, and cascading use of resources to determine points of intervention;(c) National baseline scenario, including baseline values of natural capital accounts and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories;(d) Carrying capacity assessment of natural ecosystems, including GHG emission cap-setting approaches;(e) Domestic regulatory framework for environmental protection;(f) Commitment to international environmental law, including GHG emission reduction and avoidance commitments in Nationally Determined Contributions;(g) Range of potential outcomes of different economic, demographic and policy scenarios;(h) Tiered approach to environmental impact and risk assessment of economic processes, sectors and activities;(i) Strategies for resource efficiency, product stewardship, waste management, GHG emission reduction and avoidance;(j) Choice-editing strategies, including regulation of production, importation, sale, distribution, and use of	<p>2. However, it should be noted that only the "Natural Capital or Natural Resource Accounting" is to be formulated by the DENR and PSA in accordance with the proposed Sec. 34 of the Act. Therefore, a new section on "Ecosystem" must be added to the system to be formulated by the DENR to align programs and activities such as valuation of ecosystem and development of standards and indicators for calculating ecological footprints with the system/accounting. Formulating the Ecosystem of the country will provide a "snapshot" of the environment and its contribution to the economy. Further, such system will not only determine the contributions of various ecosystems to economic development but will also result in better management of natural resources and improved climate and disaster resilience.</p> <p>3. A roadmap for Circular Economy may be considered that aims to gather, promote, and connect good practice examples from the preliminary identified potential sectors and stakeholders whose knowledge, innovation and creativity, can contribute to a faster transition to circular economy.</p> <p>NEDA: Section 5 of HB 9791 appears to be redundant with the National Circular Economy Framework currently being developed by the DENR. Suggest revisiting the bill's alignment with existing government CE initiatives.</p>
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	<p>single-use plastic products, to promote sustainable consumption;</p> <p>(k) Infrastructure and technology needs assessments;</p> <p>(l) Research and development priorities to foster eco-innovation towards circular production;</p> <p>(m) Strategies for just transition;</p> <p>(n) Monitoring mechanism to track the progress towards full transition to circular economy, including baselines, performance indicators, caps, targets and timeframe;</p> <p>(o) Status of green financing, and strategies to close investment gaps;</p> <p>(p) Integration in development planning at different levels of government;</p>	<p>NEDA suggests that the Committee consider harmonizing HB 9791 with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sec. 8 Assessment Process with HB 8594 – Philippine Environmental Assessment System• Sec. 19 Regulation of Single-Use Plastic Products with HB 26 (Single-USE Plastic Product Regulation) and HB 4102 (Single-Use Plastic Bag Tax)• Sec. 22: Circular Procurement with HB 6468 (Green Public Procurement) <p>DA: create a Council which will be responsible in formulating and developing the CESF and PCEIP, as well as overseeing the implementation of various agencies regarding their respective functions.</p> <p>DENR (Climate Change Service) submits the following comments and recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In the first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted by the Philippines to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Philippines committed to a projected GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75%, of which 2.71% is unconditional and 72.29% is conditional representing the country's ambition for green gas mitigation. The uptake of a circular economy and sustainable consumption and production practices is identified by the government as one of the key mitigating measures.
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	<p>SEC. 6. Priority Circular Economy Investment Plan. – The Department of Trade and Industry shall formulate the Priority Circular Economy Investment Plan (PCEIP), in accordance with the CESF. The PCEIP shall identify priority activities for transition to circular economy, hereinafter referred to as Covered Activities. Covered Activities shall include projects or activities in the supply chain of high climate impact sectors or resource-intensive and high-environmental risk industries that shall be prioritized for transition to circular economy. Production of single-use plastic products and other non-environmentally acceptable products, as defined under Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000", shall be included in Covered Activities.</p> <p>SEC. 7. Inclusion in the PCEIP. – The DTI shall formulate a list of Covered Activities for inclusion in the PCEIP, and evaluate projects and activities, based on a tiered assessment process to determine their environmental impact and risk in terms of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Resource consumption, including water withdrawal;(b) Waste generation;(c) GHG emission;(d) Job creation;(e) Industry value added; and,(f) Green technology adoption.	<p>2. In addition to the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP) formulated by NEDA as the anchor plan to mainstream the circular economy, other existing policy enablers of a circular economy that may be used as reference include The Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap, National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) and the Philippine Green Public Procurement Roadmap.</p> <p>3. The Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) Law is an opportunity for the country to curb the destruction of our ecosystem by setting targets for large enterprises to recover and divert the plastic waste they produced.</p> <p>4. There is a need to define and establish national and local level metrics for measuring progress towards a circular economy for different sectors/issues, including city/municipal waste, food waste, public procurement, agriculture, plastic economy, manufacturing sector, and tourism, among others. The updating of the Philippine Green Procurement Roadmap to include circular economy criteria is also recommended.</p> <p>DICT: Include guidelines and frameworks for the management, disposal and reuse of Electronic Waste (e-waste).</p> <p>NEDA: Clarify the scope and coverage of the PCEIP whether it includes CE initiatives to be funded by both</p>
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	<p>To transition to circular economy, enterprises engaging in Covered Activities, hereinafter referred to as Covered Enterprises, shall undertake measures, within a defined timeframe, to integrate eco-design and sustainable materials management in business operations, exercise product stewardship and improve waste management to prevent waste, reduce GHG emission and limit resource extraction insofar that it shall not exceed the carrying capacity of natural ecosystems. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as defined under Republic Act No. 9501, shall not be covered; Provided, That MSMEs may undertake, on a voluntary basis, activities to mitigate their environmental impact.</p>	<p>public and private sources to avoid potential duplication with the Public Investment Program (PIP)</p> <p>DOTr: Adopt the definition of Business Enterprises in HB 8791 which includes micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and community-based enterprises. Notably, HB 8791 does not make a distinction on the type of industries to be prioritized for transition to circular economy. In contrast, HB 9791 excludes MSMEs in the classification of business enterprises in "Covered Activities." DOTr explained that all producers and consumers involved in value chains of goods, products, services, and processes contributing to Philippine economy.</p> <p>PSA: Insert a new Section on the Development of Material Flow Accounts under Chapter II Circular Economy Strategy Framework, to read as follows:</p> <p><i>"Sec. 10. Development of Material Flow Accounts. - The Philippine Statistics Authority shall develop Material Flow Accounts (MFA). The MFA provides indicators describing material use at different stages of economic activities, from material extraction via international trade and material consumption to the generation of waste and emissions. This information can be combined with economic indicators, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to construct indicators of material productivity."</i></p>
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		<p>The PSA has ongoing initiatives in the development of MFA, which is aligned with the "Roadmap to Institutionalize Natural Capital Accounting" developed by NEDA, DENR and PSA. MFA is one of the environmental accounts recommended to be used in monitoring the extraction of raw materials from the environment to the economy and waste and emission from the economy back to the environment. MFA is one of the natural capital accounts included in the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) substitute bill. The accounts is based on the Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts that delivers a comprehensive overview of the natural resources, waste disposal and emissions. This account addresses SDG indicator 12.2.2 on domestic material consumption.</p> <p>Further on environment-economic accounting, PSA have current initiatives in capturing the stock and value of natural resources and the ecosystem services through the implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Central Framework and Ecosystem Accounting.</p> <p>NAST: Accounting should include exports and imports. Exporting cheap raw materials and importing expensive processed materials should be minimized.</p>
	CHAPTER III - ECO-INNOVATION	

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	<p>SEC. 10. Product Stewardship. – Covered Enterprises shall exercise product stewardship throughout all stages of product life cycle. Product stewardship shall entail Covered Enterprises to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Promote eco-design and eco-innovation to change the design, specifications, materials, packaging, and manufacturing process of their existing products to minimize environmental impact;(b) Develop, produce, use and market mono-materials and circular products that are resource-efficient, reusable, repairable, and suitable, after use, for recovery and environmentally-compatible disposal;(c) Prioritize use of renewable resources, and recycles or secondary raw materials in the production of products to reduce use of non-renewable virgin raw materials;(d) Efficiently use critical raw materials, and label critical raw materials contained in the products in order to prevent these products becoming waste, as well as to ensure that the critical raw materials can be recovered from the products or from the waste generated after the products have been used;(e) Support re-use and repair systems;(f) Reduce hazardous substance content, and label products containing pollutants in order to ensure environmentally-compatible recovery or disposal of the waste generated after their use;	
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<p>Sec. 5. Product or Process Design. – Any entity or individual engaging in the design of process, equipment, product, and packing material shall, in accordance with the requirements of reducing resource consumption and waste generation, give priority to choosing designs and materials that are easy to be recovered, dismantled, and degraded, nontoxic and harmless or with low toxic or harm, in addition to complying to the mandatory requirements as prescribed in relevant industry standards.</p> <p>With respect to electric and electronic products that may pollute the environment in the processes of dismantling and handling, toxic and harmful substances as defined by law or treaty may not be used in the design. The design of product packing shall be subject to standards for product packing to avoid wasting resources and polluting the environment due to overpacking.</p>	<p>(g) Provide information on mechanisms for return, re-use, recovery and disposal, including deposit payment arrangements, through product labelling; (h) Accept returned products and the waste generated after their use, as well as the subsequent environmentally-compatible recovery or disposal of such products and waste.</p> <p>SEC. 11. Eco-Design. – Covered Enterprises, in designing and developing products and services, shall prioritize using materials that are easy to be recovered, dismantled, and degraded, nontoxic and harmless or with low toxic or harm, in addition to complying to the mandatory requirements as prescribed in relevant industry standards; Provided, That in designing sustainable, circular products, Covered Enterprises shall prioritize use of renewable resources and take into account local and indigenous knowledge and locally sourced materials; Provided, further, That Covered Enterprises shall take into account modular design and dematerialization strategies in developing products; Provided, finally, That the use of toxic substances in products, including electrical and electronic equipment, shall be regulated, in accordance to Republic Act No. 6969, otherwise known as the “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.”</p> <p>SEC. 12. Research and development. – The Department of Science and Technology shall support</p>	<p>DOST: Incorporate “life cycle thinking (LCT) in Section 5 of HB 8791.</p> <p>DENR (Climate Change Service) on Sec 5, par. 2 of HB 8791: With respect to electric and electronic products, the Philippine Development Plan (2023-2028) identified the recovery of rare metals from waste electrical and electronic equipment (Urban mining) as a strategy to improve resource efficiency and promote a circular economy.</p> <p>DICT: recommends the participation of DICT in the Research and Development since its powers and functions provide the following:</p>
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	<p>research in material sciences and the development of green technology and innovative solutions, including dematerialization, application of artificial intelligence in computer-aided design, nanotechnology, 3D printing, Internet-of-things, machine-to-machine technology, tracking technologies, and waste treatment technologies, and facilitate the transfer of such technologies and systems to Covered Enterprises to catalyze full transition to circular economy, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10055, otherwise known as the "Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009."</p> <p>SEC. 13. Ecolabelling. – The Department of Trade and Industry shall establish standards for Philippine circular products based on international standards, and integrate such standards in the Philippine National Standards, and promulgate rules and regulations on ecolabelling of products, which must include information on reparability of the product, to encourage sustainable consumption, in accordance with Section 27 of Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000". Accordingly, DTI shall strengthen post-market surveillance of products and enforce accurate labeling.</p>	<p>III/ Resource-sharing and Capacity Building (h) Assist and provide technical expertise to government agencies in the development of guidelines in the enforcement and administration of laws, standards, rules and regulations governing ICT; and (i) Assess, review, and support ICT research and development programs of the government in coordination with the DOST and other institutions concerned.</p> <p>DA: On Ecolabelling, integrate the standards provided by RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and RA 11898 or Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER IV SOURCE REDUCTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT</p>	

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	<p>SEC. 14. Classification of Waste. - For purposes of this Act, waste shall include:</p> <p>(a) all substances or objects resulting from a production process, the primary aim of which is not the production of such substance or object;</p> <p>(b) all substances or objects that a person discards when these are no longer used according to their original purpose, or end-of-use materials; and,</p> <p>(c) all substances or objects that a person discards, and when discarded, could endanger, due to their state, either in the present or the future, human health and the environment.</p> <p>SEC. 15. End-of-Waste and End-of-Life Pathways. – For purposes of waste analysis and characterization, a waste, as defined under the previous section, shall cease to be waste when:</p> <p>(a) it has undergone recycling or other recovery process;</p> <p>(b) its original purpose ceases to exist or is renounced, and it is used for a new specific purpose;</p> <p>(c) a market or demand exists for it; or</p> <p>(d) its use does not lead to detrimental environmental or human health impacts.</p>	<p>NEDA on SEC 14: Classification must be consistent with RA 9003 and RA 6969 particularly: RA 69669 Section 5 (H, I) RA 9003 Section 3 (W), Section 5 (H) RA 9003 Section 3 (P1, P2), RA 6969 Section 5 (G1, G2)</p> <p>NEDA on Sec. 15 par. 2: Include reference to RA 6969. The proposed text is as follows:</p>
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	<p>The DENR shall determine the conditions under which specific substances and objects achieve end-of-waste status, and identify permissible processes and methods of treatment and disposal of end-of-life waste, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000".</p> <p>SEC. 16. Obligations of Enterprises. – Covered Enterprises shall undertake measures for source reduction and waste management, in the following order of priority, taking into account the precautionary principle, and extended producer responsibility, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11898, otherwise known as the "Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Prevention, or source reduction;(b) Re-use;(c) Repair;(d) Recycling;(e) Other recovery, including energy recovery;(f) Disposal. <p>SEC. 17. Waste Hierarchy. – The entire life cycle of the waste shall be taken as the basis for the order of priority. For purposes of waste analysis and characterization, the following shall be taken into account in the</p>	<p><i>"The DENR shall determine the conditions under which specifically substances and objects achieve end-of-waste status, and identify permissible processes and methods of treatment and disposal of end-of-life waste, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and the Republic Act No. 6969, otherwise known as the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear War Wastes Control Act of 1990"</i></p> <p>NEDA: Remove Sec 16 of HB 9791 as RA 11909 or Expanded Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law already encompasses similar provisions. It may redirect this section to ensuring the compliance of Covered Enterprises with existing laws and regulatory policies in waste management.</p>
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	<p>determination of what waste must be recovered or disposed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the projected emissions;(b) the degree of the conservation of natural resources;(c) the energy to be input or generated;(d) the accumulation of harmful substances in products, in waste for recovery, or in products made from such waste. <p>SEC. 18. Waste Recovery. – Covered Enterprises shall be obliged to recover their waste insofar that waste recovery is technologically feasible and economically reasonable; Provided, That waste recovery shall be deemed to be technologically feasible if methods to safely recover waste will be available for commercial application in the year for which a standard is being enforced; Provided, further, that waste recovery shall be deemed to be economically reasonable if the cost of recovery is not disproportionate to the cost of disposal, and the cost is within the capacity of the enterprise; Provided, finally, That to share the cost of recovery, Covered Enterprises shall organize themselves into a Producer Responsibility Organization, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11898, otherwise known as the "Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022".</p>	<p>NEDA: On Sec 18, provide a list of possible waste recovery mechanisms for Covered Enterprises. Harmonize this section with relevant sections of EPR Law and HB 6444 which provides for the regulation of waste treatment technology.</p>
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<p>Sec. 6. Innovation in Products and Services. — Innovation contemplated in this Act shall include the following, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Mobile technology which enables universal and low-cost access to data and applications and reduces the need for physical resources;b. Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communication being used in factory control systems and vehicle telematics enabling critical mass to mainstream M2M use as wireless network coverage expands worldwide;c. Cloud Computing/Dematerialization which enables the replacement of "something physical" with a digital alternative transforming data and service industries and services;d. Social technology which reduces the cost of setting up sharing platforms as it allows tapping into existing networks and receiving consumer feedback;e. Big Data Analytics that, consistent with the circular economy, enables organizations to generate revenues from product use instead of sales;f. Modular Design Technology which revolutionizes not only how products function but also the length and nature of customers' relationships with those products such that when a modularly designed product breaks, only the defective part is replaced or repaired extending its overall product lifecycle;g. Advanced Recycling Technology which recognizes that recycling has benefited from innovation and returns on circular economy investments;		<p>NEDA: Remove the list of specific technologies in this Section. This is in recognition of the rapid pace of technological advancement and the inherent limitations of locking in legislative provisions to recent technological trends. Focusing on specific technologies runs the risk of rendering the proposed measure obsolete as newer, potentially more sustainable technologies emerge.</p> <p>Rather than a list, Section 6 should identify key principles for sustainable innovation in products and services that provides a more flexible and enduring framework that can adapt to future technological shifts. These principles could include concepts such as adaptability, resource efficiency, durability, regenerative activities, recyclability, and systems thinking, among others.</p> <p>DA: On Section 6, Innovation of Products and Services, include the DA in developing standards for circular economy.</p>
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<p>h. Life and Material Sciences Technology which leads to new circular material input options at scale and enables altering of outputs so they can be used as inputs; i. Trace and Return Systems which supports circular business models by making it more cost-effective to collect used products in order to service, repair, recover, reuse, refurbish, or recycle them; and j. 3-D Printing which facilitates repairing and creates opportunities for circular inputs that are biodegradable or infinitely recyclable.</p>		
<p>Sec. 7. Role of National Government Agencies and Stakeholders.– a. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall formulate and regularly update the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP). It shall be the anchor plan to mainstream the circular economy in the development activities of various stakeholders in the country and ensure its impact on sustainable development. As such, the NEDA shall lead in the implementation of this Act.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER VIII INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT MECHANISMS</p> <p>Sec. 34. Role of Government Agencies. – The following government agencies shall exercise responsibilities and functions as enumerated hereunder: a. The NEDA shall integrate the CESF in the Philippine Development Plan, update the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production PAP4SCP to integrate strategies identified in the CESF, lead scenario building and identify range of potential outcomes of intervention scenarios, and take into account circular economy targets in the review and evaluation of major capital projects;</p>	<p>DOLE notes that consistent with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAPASC) will be operationalized. The Action Plan follows a comprehensive framework covering policy, research and development (R&D), innovation, and technology, infrastructure investments, and information and education to enjoin consumers and producers to adopt sustainable strategies and practices. This shall serve as the anchor plan to mainstream the circular economy in the development activities of various stakeholders in the country and ensure its impact on sustainable development.</p> <p>DOST: Amend Section 7, Role of National Government Agencies and Stakeholders, to read as follows:</p>

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		<p><i>"The Department of Science and Technology shall spearhead the development of the Circular Economy Research and Development Framework (CERD) which seeks to redesign economic systems, enhance technological solutions, and promote circularity.</i></p> <p><i>The framework shall represent a multi-faceted strategy advocating innovative solutions that converge various sectors including agriculture and food production, industry, energy, and emerging technology research and development, toward the shared goals of circularity and sustainable consumption and production.</i></p> <p><i>The CERD framework shall enable the following research and development (R&D) programs and activities, among others:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>a. Develop strategies to intensify awareness and comprehensive understanding of Circular Economy through effective fusion of Science Communication framework to disseminate science and technology advancements on circular economy principles, benefits and potential applications across sectors.</i><i>b. Develop policy R&D to assess existing relevant policies effectiveness and recommend necessary changes to align with Circular Economy goals and further encourage businesses, industries and communities to adopt circular economy practices.</i>
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<p>b. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall formulate the National Natural Capital Accounting or Environment and Natural Resource Accounting and Capacity Assessment Plan (NCACAP). The Plan will institutionalize a comprehensive system for accounting, valuing, and assessing the quality and integrity of the rich natural capital of the country, and shall serve as a basis for</p>	<p>34 b. The DENR shall lead natural asset inventory and environmental data collection, which shall contextualize the CESF and form natural capital accounts, and promote use of renewable non-wood forest products (NWFP) and strengthen market linkage between NWFP producers and Covered Enterprises and end-users, as part of the Expanded National Greening Program;</p>	<p>c. <i>Develop and inclusive and participatory R&D process that will engage all relevant stakeholders in shaping circular economy strategies.</i></p> <p>d. <i>Support R&D programs and projects that showcases models and best practices of circularity across various R&D areas.</i></p> <p>e. <i>Support R&D initiatives and circular business models and technology transfers that drive the creation of clean and environment-friendly technologies (i.e. energy efficient processes, green materials, waste-to-resources, waste-to-energy conversion systems, and innovative recycling and upcycling methods) to minimize landfill usage, reduce pollution, and promote waste valorization.</i></p> <p>DOST: Include the Bureau of Philippine Standards as one of the agencies that will formulate and implement the "National Natural Accounting for Environment and Natural Resource Accounting for Environment and Natural Resource Accounting and Capacity Assessment Plan (NCACAP).</p> <p>PSA: On Section 7.b, first paragraph, substitute the following: <i>"b. The PSA and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall implement the Philippine Environmental and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS). The PENCAS shall be based on internationally accepted environmental-economic</i></p>
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<p>the policy, technical and technological, administrative, and market-based interventions promoting the principles of circular economy, complementing the PAP4SCP.</p> <p>The NCACAP shall enable the following programs and activities, among others:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of localized methodology for accounting and valuation of capital resources covered in the value chain of goods and services contemplated in this Act;2. Development of implementing guidelines and methodology on capacity assessments;3. Development of standards and indicators for calculating ecological footprints;4. Development of circularity indicators and adequate metrics to assess performance in the context of a circular economy;5. Development of guidelines on damage compensation;6. Design of finance modalities for payment for ecosystem services (PES) and user-fee system;7. Implementing actual NCA and capacity assessment interventions;8. Conduct of valuation of losses and damages for ecosystems;9. Development of Data Transparency Arrangements and Reporting Systems;10. Development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure/system/platform to support	<p>SEC 34 m. The Philippine Statistics Authority shall compile natural asset inventories and environmental data to develop natural capital accounts;</p>	<p><i>accounting frameworks on environmental accounts and ecosystem accounts. Among others, the PENCAS framework shall include a list of the officially designated statistics on the depletion, degradation, and restoration of natural capital; environmental protection expenditures; pollution and quality of land, air, and water; environmental damages; and genuine savings.</i></p> <p><i>The implementation of PENCAS shall serve as a basis for the policy, technical and technological, administrative, and market-based interventions promoting the principles of circular economy, complementing the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAPRSCP). The NCA Roadmap, formulated by PSA and DENR together with NEDA, shall guide the institutionalization of PENCAS in the agencies."</i></p> <p>It is intended under the PENCAS Bill to institutionalize natural capital accounting. This includes monitoring of environmental accounts which is sought to be accounted under this bill. PSA suggests aligning this provision with the provisions of the PENCAS bill to avoid confusion.</p> <p>DENR: On Sec. 7 of HB 8791, Role of National Government Agencies and Stakeholders, the National Natural Capital Accounting or Environment and Natural Resource Accounting and Capacity Assessment Plan (NCACAP) should be in harmony with the proposed Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting</p>
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<p>the implementation of the NCA and capacity assessment programs.</p> <p>The DENR and the PSA shall lead the formulation and implementation of the NCACAP within one (1) year upon effectivity of this Act, in consultation with national government agencies concerned, including the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Tourism, (DOT) and Department of Agriculture (DA), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Climate Change Commission (CCC), and relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>SEC. 8. Assessment Process. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall establish parameters for tiered and multi-scale assessment of the resource intensity, supply chain traceability, environmental impact and environmental risk of economic processes, sectors, and activities, which shall guide the formulation of the PCEIP, as provided under Section 5 of this Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Industry-wide strategic environmental assessment;b. Project-specific environmental impact assessment;c. Site-specific waste analysis and characterization;d. Product-specific material flow analysis, and supply chain traceability assessment; and	<p>System (PENCAS) Act where the DENR and PSA will both have major roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>DENR (Forest Management Bureau): Include NEDA in the lead agencies responsible in the formulation of the NCACAP. NEDA has led the preparation of the country's NCA Roadmap and currently assists the DENR, together with PSA, in the creation of the natural accounting system of the country.</p> <p>DICT: On HB 8791, Sec 7, b (10), integrate the system/platform to be developed into eGov PH Super Application and/or into the National Government Portal (gov.ph).</p> <p>NEDA: Harmonize Sec. 8, Assessment Process, with HB HB No 8594 or Philippine Environmental Assessment System which mandates the DENR to develop guidelines for the environmental assessment of economic processes, sectors, and activities.</p>
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	<p>e. Product-specific life cycle assessment.</p> <p>SEC. 9. Baseline scenario. – The following agencies shall lead strategic environmental assessment of different sectors and industries, including GHG inventories, which shall be the basis of environmental targets under this Act and the formulation of the PCEIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) DENR for the forest, mining, water and waste management industries;(b) Department of Agriculture for agriculture;(c) DTI for the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry and creative industries;(d) Department of Science and Technology for the electronics and textile industries; (e) Department of Public Works and Highways for the construction sector; (f) Department of Energy for the energy sector; (g) Department of Transportation for the transport sector;	<p>NEDA on SEC 9: Harmonize this section with EO 174 – Institutionalizing the Philippine Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Reporting System.</p> <p>NAST: DOST role is cross-cutting. STI (natural and social sciences) is needed in all aspects of circular economy.</p> <p>DA: Several agencies were identified to lead the conduct of strategic environmental assessment of their respective sectors. However, no funds are provided under the proposed bill for such activities. It is recommended that the Council be provided with separate funding to support the activities as such may not have funding under the identified agencies.</p> <p>DPWH: The Department shall assist in integrating necessary revisions and/or updates of the current department orders, design manuals and regulations aligning towards green infrastructure design in support to the promotion of Circular Economy.</p> <p>DOTr has the power and authority, including its attached and sectoral agencies, to implement measures pertaining to Circular Economy and to lead in the formulation of strategic environmental assessment of different sectors and industries, including greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, which shall be the basis of environmental</p>
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		<p>targets under the said bills and the formulation of the Priority Circular Economy Investment Plan (PCEIP) shall be limited to issues and matters relating to transportation.</p> <p>As the primary regulatory body in the field of transportation, DOTr aims to provide a safe, reliable and comfortable transportation system. In order to achieve the same, DOTr has commenced the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) environmental-friendly jeepneys, buses and other PUVs. In the process of regulating the public transport system, DOTr also relies on other National Government Agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Energy (DOE), among others.</p> <p>Particularly, DOTr use as basis DENR Department Administrative Order 2015-04 and pertinent issuances in requiring PUVs to use clean and energy-efficient transport technology and energy sources such as hybrid, electric, or those stated in the DENR Guidelines. All PUVs are also required to comply with the vehicle fuel economy labeling and rating requirements under the DOE guidelines.</p> <p>DOTr's regulation of the transport industry relative to the climate change agenda and towards sustainable development is co-dependent upon the national policies formulated and implemented. The DOTr has commenced adopting and integrating some of the principles discussed in the bills in the regulation of the transport sector.</p>
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	<p>(h) Department of Tourism for the tourism industry; and, (i) Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development for the real estate industry.</p> <p>SEC. 34 b. The DENR shall lead natural asset inventory and environmental data collection, which shall contextualize the CESF and form natural capital accounts, and promote use of renewable non-wood forest products (NWFP) and strengthen market linkage between NWFP producers and Covered Enterprises and end-users, as part of the Expanded National Greening Program.</p> <p>SEC. 34 g. The Department of Finance shall lead in determining appropriate combination of taxes,</p>	<p>Finally, DOTr suggests that the provisions of HB 7705 or Low Carbon Economy Act be considered in crafting the Circular Economy Act.</p> <p>NEDA on Sec. 34: Remove specific provisions under bullets: "b" and "m" pertaining to the mandates of DENR and PSA regarding the generation and compilation of necessary data for the development of natural and ecosystem accounts. These provisions are generally covered in the PENCAS Bills approved by both houses of Congress.</p> <p>DENR: The Natural Capital Accounting or Environment and Natural Resource Accounting and Capacity Assessment Plan (NCACAP) should be in harmony with the proposed Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act where the DENR and PSA will both have major roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>On Sec 34b, replace the term "non-wood forest products" with "non-timber forest products."</p>
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<p>c. The DOF shall identify incentives and market interventions to promote and facilitate the mainstreaming of the circular economy principles and practices consistent with the harmonization of incentives under existing laws.</p> <p>The DTI, in coordination with the DILG, shall lead in developing standards for circular economy design on a product or process.</p> <p>d. Non-government organizations, civil society organizations, and academe actively working in the fields of marine ecosystems, healthcare, forest conservation, mining, and sustainable ecological agriculture, among others, shall be consulted by the NEDA, DENR, and PSA in the formulation of the PAP4SCP and NCACAP.</p>	<p>subsidies, incentives, and loans, bonds and other debt instruments to stimulate innovation and accelerate the transition towards circular economy, and integrate such financial instruments to close circular economy investment gaps in the Sustainable Finance Framework;</p> <p>SEC. 34 c. The DTI shall evaluate projects and activities for inclusion in the PCEIP, and develop and implement programs to assist and support green technology start-ups, in accordance with Republic Act No 11337, otherwise known as the "Innovative Startup Act", and MSMEs in the transition to circular economy;</p> <p>d. The DOLE shall conduct labor forecasting to determine labor demand for circular economy transition, and integrate labor demand of circular economy in the National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10771, otherwise known as the "Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016";</p> <p>e. The DPWH shall integrate environmental impact assessment and green design in the infrastructure development cycle;</p>	<p>DILG: On Sec. 7 (c), par 2 (HB 8791), substitute the following: "c. The DTI, in coordination with the DILG, shall lead in developing standards for circular economy design on a product or process."</p> <p>DA: On Sec. 7 (c), par 2 (HB 8791), substitute the following: "The DTI, in coordination with the DILG, DENR, and DA shall lead in developing standards for circular economy design on a product or process."</p>
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	<p>f. The DOST shall integrate technology needs, and research and development priorities for circular economy transition in the formulation of the Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda, and foster eco-innovation and facilitate technology transfers to MSMEs, and green technology start-ups, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11337, otherwise known as the "Innovative Startup Act";</p> <p>h. The Department of Agriculture shall develop and implement programs to promote circular agriculture and regenerative food system, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10068, otherwise known as the "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010";</p> <p>i. The Department of Interior and Local Government shall provide training to LGUs to adopt circular procurement, assist MSMEs in the transition to circular economy, and monitor and track circular procurement expenditure as part of CCET. The DILG shall also provide assistance to LGUs to integrate local economic transformation programs towards circular economy in their Local Climate Change Action Plan, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009";</p>	<p>DA: recommends the provision of additional funding to all concerned agencies, particularly the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) of the Department of Agriculture, to ensure full implementation of its tasks as stated in the bill.</p> <p>GPPB-TSO: The capacity building or conduct of trainings for Local Government Units must adopt the Circular procurement and aligned with the communication strategy outlined in the GPP Roadmap and remain in the purview of the GPPB-TSO, Consistent with the mandate under Section 63.3 (c) of the 2016 revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184.</p>
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	<p>j. The TESDA shall integrate skills needs for circular economy transition in the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan;</p> <p>k. The Climate Change Commission shall include circular economy strategies in the National Climate Change Action Plan, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009", and develop a monitoring and evaluation system, and periodically collect data on indicators to track and report progress of circular economy programs in achieving targets, and integrate the progress report in the National Integrated Climate Change Database and Information Exchange System;</p> <p>l. The National Innovation Council shall integrate strategies to promote eco-innovation and its corresponding technology needs, as provided for under Section 12 of this Act, in the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document, and develop and implement programs to assist and support green technology start-ups, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11293, otherwise known as the "Philippine Innovation Act";</p> <p>n. The Design Center of the Philippines shall develop and implement programs to embed design thinking in restructuring Covered Activities and eco-design, and assist and support MSMEs in changing product design to promote environmental sustainability,</p>	
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	in accordance with Republic Act No. 10557, otherwise known as the "Philippine Design Competitiveness Act of 2013";	
<p>Sec. 8. Single-use Plastic Phase-Out and Source Reduction and Waste Minimization through Polluters Pay Principle / Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes. — The phase-out of single-use plastics by all business enterprises to consumers shall be in full force and in effect three (3) years from the effectivity of the Act. A phase-out and transition plan shall be formulated within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, and shall be led by the DENR through the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), in coordination with DTI, DOST, DILG, DOF, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), NEDA, and CCC and other government agencies concerned, and non-government stakeholders, as may be necessary.</p> <p>The phase-out and transition plan shall include, but are not limited to, the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Single-use Plastic Production and Consumption Reduction Program, including phase-out; b. Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes for business enterprises and plastic producers; c. Greener Plastic Product Standards for plastic products that are made of compostable materials, do not produce 	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER V SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION</p> <p>SEC. 19. Regulation of single-use plastic products. – As part of efforts to achieve plastic-neutrality, as defined under the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, the National Solid Waste Management Commission shall establish a single-use plastic production and consumption reduction schedule, in accordance with Sections 29 and 30 of Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."</p> <p>SEC. 20. Sustainable Pricing. – To enhance competitiveness of circular products and encourage sustainable consumption, DTI shall regulate green premiums from sustainable pricing to improve affordability of circular products.</p>	<p>NEDA: Harmonize Sec. 19 of HB 9791 (Regulation of single-use plastic products) with HB 26 (Single-Use Plastic Product Regulation) and HB 4102 (Single-Use Plastic Bag Tax).</p> <p>DOLE: On Sec. 8 (Single-Use Plastic Phase Out /EPR schemes), include DOLE as part of the government and non-government agencies that will formulate the phase-out and transition plan. This will enable the Department to ensure that the formulated plan will be in line with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10771 or Philippine Green Jobs Act which is specifically designed to generate, sustain, and incentivize "green jobs." Under the said law, the DOLE, in coordination with other government agencies, is mandated to formulate a National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan; maintain a database of green careers, professions, and skills, as well as a list of emerging business enterprises that generate and sustain green jobs; facilitate skills training assessment and certification, career advocacy/career development support, provide productivity and livelihood training; and extend technical assistance to enterprises to ensure labor law compliance.</p>

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<p>microplastics, and can degrade naturally in the environment;</p> <p>d. Research and Technology Development for Alternatives to Single-use Plastics Products;</p> <p>e. Regulatory Instruments and Fiscal and Non-Fiscal Rewards and Incentives for Producers and Consumers;</p> <p>f. Collection, Recovery, and Recycling Plan for local governments and business enterprises;</p>		<p>DOST-PCIEERD supports the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase out of single-use plastics by all business enterprises to consumers to address plastic pollution. In fact, the Council is supporting a project entitled "Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA) Production from Agricultural Residues." PHA is 100% biodegradable and possesses similar properties with synthetic plastics.• Promotion of bio-based products as substitute for all plastic products• Adoption of "Polluters Pay Principle" and/or "Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes"• Adoption of "zero-waste business models"• Use the phrase "Research and Development (R&D)" instead of "Research Technology and Development" to make it more aligned with the terminologies used and R&D agenda pursued by DOST and other research institutions• Provision of incentives to local manufacturers of raw materials or inputs to produce the single-use plastic (SUP) alternatives and other bio-based products• Review of the existing procurement law since there are instances that the cost of recycled materials are higher than those originally manufactured. <p>Due to the limited number of companies in the Philippines producing biodegradable plastics, the DOST-PCIEERD</p>
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<p>g. Just transition plan for displaced workers in affected industries and ensure their access to livelihood support programs and other available green job opportunities;</p> <p>h. Support to business enterprises adopting Zero Waste business models, refills and alternative delivery systems, and producing sustainably sourced alternatives to SUP products;</p>	<p>CHAPTER VI - JUST TRANSITION</p> <p>SEC. 23. Whole-of-Government Approach. – The whole-of-government approach is hereby adopted to facilitate just transition to circular economy. All government agencies shall develop and implement programs to create decent work opportunities based on ex ante employment impact assessment of the transition to circular economy, and address environmental, economic and social objectives simultaneously, in terms of:</p> <p>(a) Support to enterprises;</p>	<p>supports the transition period provided in the bill. This is to give plastic manufacturers ample time to acquire equipment and manpower for biodegradable plastics operation.</p> <p>DTI: The Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) of the DTI submitted the Plastics Identification Code (PNS 2038:2030, ICS 83.080.01). The standard provides uniform codes for identifying groups of plastics for segregation and recycling purposes.</p> <p>DENR (Climate Change Service): The Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) Law is an opportunity for the country to curb the destruction of the ecosystems by setting targets for large enterprises to recover and divert the plastic waste they produced.</p> <p>NAST: recommends using "whole-of-nation" instead of "whole-of government" approach because we need the involvement of all sectors for a circular economy.</p> <p>CCC: emphasizes the importance of intergenerational responsibility, social inclusivity, and adoption of the whole-of-society approach in crafting policies and strategies aimed at fostering circularity. Such holistic approach ensures that the benefits of a circular economy are equitably distributed across society while safeguarding the needs of future generations.</p>
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<p>i. Awareness-raising and other Information, Education, and Communication Strategies for business enterprises, producers, and consumers.</p> <p>The Plan shall adopt a phased-transition approach towards phasing out plastic, recognizing the rippling effects of the phase-out on the economy, including the shift of business models of plastic producers and the livelihood opportunities for workers of plastic producers.</p>	<p>(b) Skills development; (c) Occupational safety and health (OSH); (d) Social protection; and, (e) Social dialogue.</p>	<p>DICT: recommends addressing the technological implications of the circular economy since it can encompass the digital aspects of the Philippine society. The following language is recommended for Section 23, to wit:</p> <p><i>“The Whole-of-Government Approach. – The whole-of-government approach is hereby adopted to facilitate just transition to circular economy. All government agencies shall develop and implement programs to create decent work opportunities based on ex ante employment impact assessment of the transition to circular economy, and address environmental, economic, technological, and social objectives simultaneously, in terms of:</i></p> <p>DOLE: Include a just transition for displaced workers in affected industries and ensure their access to livelihood support programs, i.e. DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP), the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), and the Adjustment Measures Program (AMP) and other available green job opportunities as one of the components of the phase-out and transition plan. This is in line with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Guidelines for a Just Transition which provides a policy framework and guiding principles for governments and social partners to formulate, implement, and monitor their policies and actions in such</p>
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	<p>SEC. 24. Support to MSMEs. – The DTI shall develop and implement programs to enhance the resilience of MSMEs to avoid or minimize disruption of economic activity and loss of assets, jobs and incomes, as they transition to circular economy.</p> <p>The DTI, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology, shall facilitate technology transfers to MSMEs, based on technology needs assessment, provide financial and technical assistance to green technology start-ups, support cluster development, research and development, and incubation.</p> <p>SEC. 25. Skills Development. – The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall develop and implement programs for upskilling and reskilling for workers affected by the transition to circular economy, based on skills needs assessments and labor market information, to match supply and demand for skills for green jobs. TESDA shall promote equal access to opportunities for skills acquisition, and recognition or certification.</p>	<p>transition. Labor policies on employment, skills and enterprise development, formalization of work, occupational safety and health, social inclusion, cooperatives, and the social and solidarity economy are some of the main policy areas that need to be considered.</p> <p>DA: Include DA among the agencies to support MSMEs. Sec. 24 par 2 shall read, as follows:</p> <p><i>"The DTI, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Agriculture, shall facilitate technology transfers to MSMEs, based on technology needs assessment, provide financial and technical assistance to green technology start-ups, support cluster development, research and development, and incubation."</i></p> <p>SBC-DTI: The Small Business Corporation of the DTI welcomes the support to MSMEs during transition to circular economy and defers to the knowledge and expertise of concerned agencies such as DTI, DENR, NEDA, DOST and others to better provide insights and recommendations of the proposed bill.</p>
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	<p>SEC. 26. Occupation Safety and Health. – The Occupational Safety and Health Center shall conduct research to better understand the range of OSH risks throughout the life cycle of products and from new technologies and green jobs, and use this knowledge to improve prevention and safety in the workplace.</p> <p>SEC. 27. Social Protection. – All concerned government agencies shall promote, establish, develop, and implement social protection systems social innovation solutions to safeguard workers from negative impacts of structural changes in business operations, and employment guarantee schemes in public works projects to construct and maintain priority circular infrastructure and green infrastructure, based on infrastructure needs assessment, to support circular economy.</p> <p>SEC. 28. Social Dialogue. – The Department of Labor and Employment shall actively promote and engage in social dialogue to forge tripartite consensus on pathways towards environmental sustainability with decent work. For this purpose, DOLE shall create, develop and formalize social dialogue mechanisms and structures at all levels to discuss the equitable means to achieve the objectives of this Act.</p>	
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Sec. 9. Circular Public Procurement Program. — All departments, bureaus, offices, and agencies of the government shall establish their respective Circular Public Procurement Programs, which shall take into account circular economy standards and set annual target accomplishments through a phased approach. All agencies shall submit their respective Circular Public Procurement Program to the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. The GPPB shall in turn submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines on the compliance of agencies.

The GPPB, in coordination with the DBM, DTI, and Commission on Audit (COA), within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, shall issue the necessary guidelines to accelerate the optimal use of government resources through the procurement of public goods and services adhering to the circular economy and sustainable consumption and production, subject to development and accountability measures as may be appropriate and promulgated under the said joint implementing rules.

SEC. 22. Circular Procurement. – To support Covered Establishments, all government agencies, including local government units (LGUs), shall integrate circular procurement in their respective Annual Procurement Plans, in accordance with the Green Public Procurement Roadmap. Circular products shall take priority in the acquisition of goods without prejudice to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"; Provided, That the Government Procurement Policy Board shall identify common-use supplies and equipment (CSE) and non-CSE under mandatory circular procurement; Provided, further, That the GPPB, in consultation with implementing agencies of Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the "Consumer Act of the Philippines", shall establish green criteria to evaluate goods under mandatory circular procurement.

COA: The proposed Circular Public Procurement program should allow for a longer transitory period so that the government may prepare for a more inclusive program even for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Moreover, an abrupt total implementation and adaptation of the requirements provided in the HB may put at a disadvantage the MSMEs which may not have readily available resources to comply with the new guidelines to be issued by the GPPB and other agencies.

DA: Further study is needed on RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act and its possible amendments to fully effect the Circular Procurement.

GPPB-TSO recommends the following:

1. Include the phrase "*the specific requirements and mechanism shall be defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations to be promulgated under this Act*" after the acronym GPPB on the second sentence of the first paragraph to properly guide the agencies in the conceptualization of their GPP Program and also for this provision to be implementable.
2. Requiring the submission of report to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking of the Senate for clarity purposes.

GPPB-TSO recommends the following: (25Feb2024)

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopt the Green Public Procurement (GPP) roadmap in the implementation of circular procurement. The GPP roadmap establishes a program for all departments, bureaus, offices, and agencies of the government in achieving green growth through a switch to sustainable consumption and production patterns. It provides a systematic and stepwise approach in implementing GPP government procurement taking into consideration factors such as availability of supplies, value for money, feasible green technical specifications, and diligent verification. Therefore, in adopting this Roadmap, the prioritization in acquiring circular products mandated in the proposed provision must adhere to the same timetable and work plans outlined in the roadmap.2. In connection with Section 4 of Administrative Order No. 17, s.2011 which mandates the procurement of Common-Use Supplies and Equipment (CSEs) through the Department of Budget and Management-Procurement Service (DBM-PS), and non-CSEs directly purchased by Procuring Entities, the DBM-PS, given its role in centralized procurement of CSE, must be responsible in identifying the CSE for mandatory circulatory requirement.3. Instead of restricting consultation to implementing agencies of RA 7394 for establishing green criteria for goods under the mandatory Circular Procurement, the GPPB, as the GPP Steering Committee, may consult relevant government agencies, such as the identified
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<p>The GPPB shall develop and provide a capacity-building program for agencies to develop circular public procurement professionals and experts.</p>	<p>SEC. 35. Capacity-building. - All government agencies shall promote and invest in capacity building of their personnel and stakeholders to enhance their institutional capacity to design, develop, implement, and</p>	<p>GPP Pilot Agencies for identifying green specifications. In view of the foregoing, GPPB-TSO proposes amendment to Section 22, to read as follows: <i>"SEC. 22. Circular Procurement. – To support Covered Establishments, all government agencies, including local government units (LGUs), shall integrate circular procurement in their respective Annual Procurement Plans, in accordance with the Green Public Procurement Roadmap. Circular products shall take priority in the acquisition of goods without prejudice to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"; the existing procurement law, rules and regulations. Provided, That the Government Procurement Policy Board shall identify common-use supplies and equipment (CSE) and non-CSE under mandatory circular procurement, respectively; Provided, further, That the GPPB, in consultation with implementing agencies of Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the "Consumer Act of the Philippines", relevant government agencies shall establish green criteria to evaluate goods under mandatory circular procurement."</i></p> <p>DOTr: The intent of both HBs 8791 and 9791 is similar to the provisions of the amendatory bills for RA 9184 or Government Procurement Reform Act, particularly on "Strategic Procurement Planning and Sustainable Procurement through Green Public Procurement, Life</p>
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<p>The Public-Private Partnership Center and the Bureau of Product Standards of the DTI, among others, shall ensure that the procurement for vital government infrastructure and enforcement of standards in the sale of products in the Philippines shall adhere to the principles under this Act.</p>	<p>monitor circular economy programs and projects, including circular procurement.</p>	<p>Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Life Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA). Congress' initiative to strike a balance between economic progress and environmental protection.</p> <p>GPPB: Section 63.3 of the 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 provides that the GPPB-TSO is mandated to undertake the management and conduct of training on procurement systems and procedures. In this regard, we can clarify that the GPPB-TSO could have the function to carry out the regular capacity-building programs stated in this provision.</p> <p>COA: As regards the issuance of guidelines on procurement of public goods and services, COA feels that it is not the proper agency to be consulted about the drafting of the guidelines as the matter is not within its expertise. Further, the Commission refrains from participating in any proceedings that will compromise its independence as the guardian of public funds and properties.</p> <p>GPPB: GPPB supports House Bill 8791 which aims to implement programs geared towards responsible and sustainable consumption and production with the end view of having a fully circular economy in the country. As early as 2013, the GPPB issued Resolution No. 15-2013 to initiate programs that will sustain the implementation of Green Public Procurement (GPP) or Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) in the government acquisition system.</p>
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		<p>This denotes that the GPP concept has already been integrated into the well-established procurement procedures of the country.</p> <p>At present, the GPPB, through its Technical Support Office (TSO), is undertaking activities to improve the existing GPP Roadmap, expand the list of CSEs and non-CSEs for GPP, enhance the monitoring system for GPP, and conduct the necessary capacity-building activities relative thereto, with technical assistance from the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).</p> <p>Relatedly, the GPP has been added as one of the indicators used to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of the practices of PEs against those of the national public procurement systems and international best practices and standards. The indicator used in the Agency Procurement Compliance and Performance Indicators (APCPI) System requires all government PEs to use green technical specifications. In this regard, the GPPB-TSO has a monitoring system in place through the PE's annual submission of their APCPI results. Additionally, Republic Act (RA) No. 9184 requires the PEs to prepare a procurement monitoring report that shall be submitted to the GPPB on a semestral basis. The development of monitoring tools both at the oversight and agency levels is also currently in progress.</p>
Sec. 10. Integration of Permaculture Principles and Practices. - National Government agencies (NGAs),		NEDA: NEDA seeks clarification on the distinction between "Permaculture" and "Circular Economy". Given

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<p>government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and local government units (LGUs) shall integrate permaculture principles and practices in their respective programs, services, projects, and operations.</p> <p>The Department of Education (DepEd) shall integrate permaculture education into the primary and secondary education curricula, which shall include basic permaculture concepts and principles, sustainable mobility, agrobiodiversity, saving seeds, establishing a home, school, and community food gardens, and ecological solid waste management, among others.</p>		<p>that the proposed Bill's objective is the promotion of a circular economy, it may be prudent to replace Section 10 with a section on the "Integration of Circular Economy Principles and Practices." Focus instead on how Circular Economy (CE) and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) can be integrated in the curriculum in the primary and secondary level and vocational courses and programs and activities of the local government units instead of promoting permaculture principles and practices.</p> <p>DepEd: The Department of Education shall integrate circular economy in the K to 12 curriculum. Since circular economy holds particular promise for achieving multiple SDGs, including SDG 6 on energy, SDG 8 on economic growth, SDG 11 on sustainable cities, SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate change, SDG 14 on oceans, and SDG 15 on life on land, it is assured that these are integrated into the MATATAG K to 10 Curriculum. The MATATAG K to 10 Curriculum is designed to incorporate crucial concepts related to environmental protection, conservation, and sustainability. Consequently, the curriculum encompasses the following relevant competencies, aligning with the stipulations outlined in the role of DepEd as stated in HB 8791:</p> <p><u>Learning Area: Science Grade 4 1st quarter</u> (Learning Competencies/Performance Standards)</p>
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		<p>1) Demonstrate ways to minimize harmful changes in materials, such as restriction of burning of waste materials, and care in handling reactive materials;</p> <p>2) Identify issues and concerns in the local community and how they could be addressed by science, such as the treatment of waste; and</p> <p>3) Apply science process skills and attitudes in conducting a guided survey about environmental issues and concerns including grouping and classifying, communicating, and open-mindedness.</p> <p>Performance Standard By the end of the Quarter, learners describe chemical properties of materials and changes to them. They demonstrate an understanding that science processes can solve everyday problems and use creativity and determination to provide examples. They exhibit objectivity and open mindedness in gathering information related to environmental issues and concerns in the community.</p> <p>Suggested Performance Task Plan and produce a sample of useful fertilizer from household waste.</p> <p><u>Learning Area: EEP-TLE-Agriculture and Fisheries</u> (Learning Competency)</p>
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<p>The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Local Government Academy shall facilitate the development and provision of a training program for LGUs on implementing permaculture practices.</p>	<p>SEC. 34 (h). The Department of Agriculture shall develop and implement programs to promote circular agriculture and regenerative food system, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10068, otherwise known as the "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010";</p> <p>SEC. 34 (i). The Department of Interior and Local Government shall provide training to LGUs to adopt circular procurement, assist MSMEs in the transition to circular economy, and monitor and track circular procurement expenditure as part of CCET. The DILG shall also provide assistance to LGUs to integrate local economic transformation programs towards circular economy in their Local Climate Change Action Plan, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009";</p>	<p>1) Natatalakay ang mga kahalagahan at kabutihang dulot ng paghahalaman sa tao, hayop, at kalikasan o kapaligiran. 2) Natatalakay ang mga batas, local na ordinansa, ahensya ng gobyerno at mga non-government organization (NGOs), at serbisyong kanilang naibibigay ukol sa paghahalaman.</p> <p>NAST: Since the Philippine territory is 71% marine and 29% land area, NAST suggests the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of sustainable aquaculture and regenerative ocean farming alongside the on-land sustainable practices such as permaculture and regenerative farming.2. Government and business sectors' investment in developing sustainable food production in collaboration with fisherfolks and farmers as partner-beneficiaries.3. Monitoring and protection of fisheries resource. <p>DILG: Capacity building or the conduct of trainings for LGUs to adopt Circular procurement must align with the communication strategy outlined in the roadmap and remain under the purview of the GPPB-TSO, consistent with its mandate under Section 63.3 (c) of the 2016 revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of TA 9184.</p>
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<p>The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall offer technical-vocational skills training programs and certificate courses on permaculture design and practices geared toward the acquisition of practical skills and employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.</p>	<p>SEC. 34 (j).The TESDA shall integrate skills needs for circular economy transition in the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan;</p>	<p>TESDA: The PAP4SCP has identified several actions in line with the promotion of sustainable consumption and production, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strengthen SCP awareness through non-formal education channels and grassroots programs targeting barangays, communities, overseas Filipino workers (OFW) households, youth, among others; and2. Strengthen/sustain school SCP/ environmental campaigns, events, and competitions to promote SCP as a "way of life", among others. <p>TESDA suggestion: Revise the last paragraph of Section 10, to read as follows: <i>"The TESDA shall offer technical-vocational education and training (TVET) programs on permaculture design and practices geared towards the acquisition of practical skills for employment and entrepreneurship activities."</i></p> <p>The following are TESDA's initiatives for a Green Circular Economy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Labor Market Intelligence Report (LMIR) Issue no. 2 series of 2002 "TVET for the Circular Economy: Preparing the Workforce for the Circularity of Industries discussing various topics related to TVET Circular Economy
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		<p>2. Green Jobs HRD Plan to develop and inculcate the skills and mindset needed for environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient society</p> <p>3. Philippine TVET System Framework which encompasses the green community, green jobs/skills, green policies, green culture, and the green competency standards/ green training regulations</p> <p>4. Green Skills in TESDA Training Regulations (TR)</p> <p>5. TESDA-Green Technology Center Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Partnership for improving the Food Cold Chain in the Philippines• Solid Waste Management Training Program for a World Without Waste• Establishment of Aquaponics Demo Facility• Piloting the implementation of the ILO Greening TVET Toolkit ver 2022• Green TVET e-Forum with the theme: "Integrating Green Practices in TVET for Sustainable Development."• UNESCO UNEVOC Coaction Initiative 2022• Cool Contributions fighting Climate Change (C4) Project 2018• Green TVET Forum and Strategic Planning on Greening the TVET System 2018• Exhibits and Technical Learning Sessions on Electric Vehicles and e-mobility 2016 <p>6. Integrated Organic Farming System Program (IOFSP) which uses holistic farm management approach that promotes sustainable agriculture without waste</p>
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		<p>7. Electric Vehicle/Low Carbon Transport Initiatives as part of the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry</p> <p>8. Renewable Energy Initiatives with the DOE in conducting skills mapping and consultation with Wind Turbine operators</p> <p>9. TESDA's Needs Anticipation: Workplace Skills and Satisfaction Survey in relation to RA 10771 or Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER VII CIRCULAR ECONOMY INVESTMENT</p> <p>SEC. 29. Inter-Agency Task Force on Sustainable Finance. – The Inter-Agency Task Force on Sustainable Finance is hereby institutionalized to primarily develop and implement an action plan to promote green financing, including utilizing external funding sources, to channel capital into Covered Enterprises and support circular and green infrastructure development to accelerate the transition to circular economy.</p> <p>SEC. 30. Incentives for Covered Enterprises. – The NEDA shall submit the PCEIP to the Board of Investments for inclusion of Covered Activities in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP). The grant, administration, and monitoring of fiscal incentives to Covered Enterprises under this Act shall be governed by Title XIII of the NIRC, as amended: Provided, That no enterprise, project or activity shall be allowed to avail</p>	<p>NEDA on Sec. 30: Add the Innovation Grant as an incentive mechanism for covered enterprises. The priority areas identified under the grant are potential entry points for Circular Economy transition.</p> <p>To be consistent with Sections 6, 7 and 34 c of HB 9791, the following text is hereby recommended:</p>

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	<p>of fiscal incentives unless such enterprise or activity is included in the SIPP; Provided, further, That Covered Enterprises may avail incentives provided for under Republic Act No. 9520, otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, Republic Act No. 9178, otherwise known as the Barangay Micro-Business Enterprise Act of 2002, Republic Act No. 9501, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Republic Act No. otherwise known as the Green Jobs Act of 2016, where applicable.</p> <p>SEC. 31. Circular and Green Infrastructure Development. – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall accelerate the development of circular infrastructure and green infrastructure. The Bureau of Research and Standards under the DPWH shall establish standards of green design in building standards and implementation of public works to mitigate adverse environmental impact.</p> <p>The DPWH shall integrate the following parameters for circular infrastructure in building regulations:</p> <p>(a) Use of durable products and services made of secondary, non-toxic, sustainably sourced, or renewable, reusable or recyclable material;</p> <p>(b) Space efficiency over time, through shared occupancy, flexibility and adaptability;</p>	<p><i>"The DTI shall forward the PCEIP to the Board of Investments for inclusion of Covered Activities in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP)."</i></p> <p>DA: suggests that building design should promote energy conservation by way of maximizing natural ventilation and illumination.</p> <p>DICT: recommends including other agencies like the DOE which has the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) and shares the same goals in terms of renewable energy infrastructure and waste management for energies. The same shall be subject to the DOE's purview.</p> <p>DPWH: supports the acceleration and development of circular economy and green infrastructure through establishment and incorporation of standards of green infrastructure designs in planning, design, construction and maintenance of highways and other public works that are being undertaken by the Department.</p>
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	<p>(c) Longevity, resilience, durability, easy maintenance and reparability;</p> <p>(d) Reduction of mixing materials, layering and focusing on mono-material solutions;</p> <p>(e) Disassembly, reuse or recycling of embedded material, components and systems;</p> <p>(f) Life-cycle assessment (LCA), life-cycle costing (LCC) and readily available digital information.</p>	<p>DPWH: suggests that inputs from Building Officials through various organizations like the Philippine Association of Building Officials (PABO) Inc. And the Building Officials Organization in Metro Manila (BOOMM) Inc. be considered as Building Officials are the implementers of the Philippine Green Building Code</p> <p>On the use of durable products and services made of secondary, non-toxic, sustainably sourced, or renewable, reusable or recyclable materials, DPWH recognizes the potential of recycled aggregates to significantly reduce the environmental impact of construction activities by minimizing the need for virgin materials and decreasing construction waste. However, the successful integration of recycled aggregates into mainstream construction requires rigorous standards to ensure structural integrity and safety. Thus, the following are proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The DPWH, through the Bureau of Research and Standards, seeks to collaborate with academic institutions, industry experts and international bodies to develop comprehensive standards for recycled aggregates.b. Certification processes should be established for suppliers of recycled aggregates to guarantee quality and reliability.
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		<p>c. Pilot projects using recycled aggregated in public infrastructure may be utilized to evaluate performance and gather data.</p> <p>On the Life-cycle assessment (LCA), life-cycle costing (LCC) and readily available digital information, DPWH recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Make LCA and LCC mandatory. LCA and LCC analyses should be included in the planning and approval process of construction projects to ensure informed decision-making.b. Training for stakeholders should be provided, most especially government officials such as Building Officials and City/ Municipal Engineers, construction professionals, and developers, on conducting LCA and LCC analyses. <p>The transition to a circular economy in the construction sector necessitates continuous innovation and research. Developing new materials, construction techniques, and recycling process is essential for achieving the goals of the measures. Thus, it is submitted that the national government should allocate research grants and incentives for academic and industry research on recycled materials and circular construction practices.</p> <p>Public awareness and engagement are critical for the successful implementation of circular economy principles. Thus, it is recommended that awareness campaign be</p>
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		launched highlighting the environmental and economic benefits of circular infrastructure.
<p>Sec. 11. Incentives and Reward for the Public Sector. - The DBM, in coordination with national government agencies concerned, shall institute an incentives and rewards system for NGAs, GOCCs, SUCs, and LGUs for choices in products, services, operations, and public works that adhere to the circular economy standards. The incentives and rewards system shall include the utilization of 25% of the savings generated from such measures for the payment of additional performance incentives.</p>	<p>SEC. 33. Incentives and Reward for the Public Sector. - The Department of Budget and Management shall institute an incentives and rewards system for government agencies, including LGUs, for circular procurement, and circular and green infrastructure development. The incentives and rewards system shall include the utilization of twenty-five percent of the savings generated from such measures for the payment of additional performance incentives.</p>	<p>COA: The parameters as to generation of the 25% savings and the payment of additional performance incentives must be clearly defined to ensure proper funding and utilization.</p> <p>The meaning of savings or the criteria/parameters for its generation to be used for the payment of additional performance incentives must be specifically set out or defined to ensure proper funding and utilization. Further, the criteria for payment of these additional performance incentives must also be included.</p> <p>DBM: Section 79 of the specific General Provision (GP) does not explicitly mention that 25% of the savings generated from circular procurement, and circular and green infrastructure development can be used as incentives and rewards system for payment of additional performance incentives.</p>
<p>Sec. 12. Capacity-building for Government and Sectors. - National government agencies shall promote and invest in capacity building for their institutions and stakeholders to enhance their technical, institutional, and implementation capacities to design, implement, and monitor circular economy programs and projects, including circular public procurement.</p>	<p>SEC. 35. Capacity-building. - All government agencies shall promote and invest in capacity building of their personnel and stakeholders to enhance their institutional capacity to design, develop, implement, and monitor circular economy programs and projects, including circular procurement.</p>	<p>TESDA poses no objection on Sec. 12.</p> <p>DOTr: The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), as an attached agency of DOTr, can extend its technical assistance in preventing plastic waste pollution in the territorial waters of the Philippines. The PCG's mandate involves maritime enforcement, maritime safety, maritime environmental protection, and maritime security.</p>

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<p>The DOLE, TESDA, DICT, and DENR, among other NGAs, shall extend technical assistance to their respective sectors and stakeholders in building their capacities to contribute to the implementation of this Act</p>		<p>Relatedly, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), which are also attached to DOTr, can help regulate policies for Circular Economy to promote capacity-building for marine-related transportation activities to enhance technical, institutional, and implementation capacities to design, implement, and monitor Circular Economy programs and projects. For instance, PPA Administrative Order No. 05-2018 or "Port Environmental Policy" issued on 5 May 2019, adheres to the concept of ensuring that port activities are focused on minimizing the adverse impact on the environment and ensuring that all aspects of port operation and port development are geared towards the protection and preservation of the environment for the maximum.</p> <p>GCG: The Governance Commission for Government Owned or Controlled Corporations, as the oversight body for the GOCC sector, will monitor the compliance by the GOCCs, and coordinate with the relevant agencies for the proper implementation of the proposed measure should the bill ripen into law.</p>
<p>Sec. 13. Strategic Communications Plan. - The Philippine Information Agency (PIA) shall formulate and implement a strategic communications plan for sustainable consumption and production.</p> <p>a. This Plan shall build on the existing plans and programs of the government, including among</p>	<p>SEC. 21. Individual Environmental Responsibility. – The DTI shall formulate and implement a strategic communications plan to raise consumer environmental awareness to promote sustainable consumption, develop individual environmental responsibility and promote adoption of permaculture as a way of life. Consumer environmental awareness and principles of</p>	<p>NEDA: On Sec. 21 of HB 9791, rename this section to "Strategic Communications Plan" and place its function under the DENR to harmonize information campaigns related to the Extended Producer Responsibility Act and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.</p>

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<p>others, RA No. 9512 or the "National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008."</p>	<p>permaculture shall be integrated in programs under Republic Act No. 9512, otherwise known as the "National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008."</p>	<p>In developing the strategic communication plan (SCP), focus on Circular Economy (CE) instead of SCP given that the bill is geared towards the integration of CE. Following this, DENR should lead the formulation and implementation of the Strategic Communication Plan through their Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service. This initiative will provide opportunities to harmonize information campaigns of the DENR, such related to the Extended Producer Responsibility Act and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. The DENR may tap DTI for the consumer welfare aspect, as well as other relevant government agencies and sectors.</p> <p>To ensure a more comprehensive approach in developing and implementing the strategic communication plan, the DENR should involve other relevant government agencies, such as the DTI, DOST, private sector, academe, and the youth. Moreover, to ensure a wider reach of the information campaigns by involving media-related government bodies such as the Presidential Communications Office, Philippine Information Agency, among others. These agencies should be at the forefront in the information dissemination of communication materials which may be packaged in local languages and varying media forms (i.e., visual, audio) for wider stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>DENR (Climate Change Service): To foster behavior change, strategic communications plan, programs and</p>
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		<p>campaigns should be localized, audience-segmented and should cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Food waste, food distribution, and the meaning of expiration/best-before dates;b. Modeling sustainable behavior, such as using reusables, on popular media (teleseryes, movies, vlogs);c. Segregation at source and what to do with items that have multiple types of materials;d. Different types of wastes and final destinations of these wastes;e. Consumer acceptance for alternate business models and delivery systems (e.g. refilling)f. Consumer acceptance for repeating outfits and second-hand clothes; andg. Promotion of successful case studies to inspire replication. <p>PIA: HB 8791 and 9791 are consistent with the following principles, laws, and policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Article II, Section 16 of 1987 Constitution2. Section 3 of PD 1151 or the Philippine Environmental Policy of 19773. Section 3 of RA 9512 or the National Awareness and Education Act of 20084. Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 2 of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000
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		<p>5. United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) Resolution "End Plastic Pollution: A Global International Legally Binding Instrument"</p> <p>6. Paris Agreement: Instrument of Accession to address the problems and threats brought by climate change. PIA suggests considering inputs from DENR, DILG, DTI in crafting the strategic communication plan and to allocate additional budget for the Agency to implement this provision.</p>
<p>Sec. 14. Mainstreaming Circular Economy in the National Government Budget. - The DBM shall undertake the formulation of the annual national budget in a way that ensures the alignment of the allocation of funds with the circular economy and sustainable consumption and production standards and practices.</p>	<p>SEC. 32. Expenditure Tagging. – All circular procurement, and circular economy programs, activities and projects shall be tagged as climate change expenditures and included in the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) system, as established under Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2015-01 of the Department of Budget and Management, Climate Change Commission and Department of Interior and Local Government.</p>	<p>COA: Government agencies shall identify which of the procurements and PPAs that may be classified under circular economy to be able to do the tagging in CCET. Some agencies may not be aware of this policy, thus, no tagging was reported for those related expenditures.</p> <p>GPPB: GPPB Resolution No. 08-20225 directs the DBM-PS to establish green tagging of Procurement Projects awarded with green specifications in the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) in order to readily identify them and monitor the progress of the government's efforts towards Sustainable Consumption and Production.</p> <p>DBM: The National Government has already institutionalized the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) in the national budget process, wherein through CCET, the climate change expenditures using a common policy-based typology as identified in DBM-CCC Joint</p>

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		<p>Memorandum Circular No. 2015-01. The CCET provides an avenue for the National Government to assess the alignment and scale of the mobilization of public funds based on the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). Further, the CCET classifies public expenditures between climate change adaptation and mitigation through the use of typologies based on the NCCAP.</p> <p>Climate change considerations are likewise institutionalized in the implementation of the national budget through specific General Provisions (GPs) of the General Appropriations Act (GAA). For instance, Sec. 41 of the GPs of the Fiscal Year 2024 GAA mandates that 'all agencies of the government should implement projects incorporating risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and where feasible, climate change mitigation.' The CCET is also mandated through Sec. 42 of the same GPs wherein the results 'shall guide the formulation of subsequent budgets to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in the national development process.'</p>
	<p>CHAPTER IX MONITORING MECHANISM</p>	

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<p>Sec. 15. Monitoring. - The PCSD shall oversee the implementation of this Act and ensure that all provisions, plans, and programs are formulated and implemented within the timelines set forth in this Act. It shall convene regularly, enjoin other relevant stakeholders, as it deems necessary, and establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of the implementation of this Act. The PCSD shall determine whether existing regulations hamper circular economic activities or resource efficiency and propose interventions such as lifting existing restrictions or setting positive legal frameworks.</p>	<p>SEC. 36. Monitoring. – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) shall monitor the implementation of this Act. It shall engage relevant stakeholders, as it deems necessary, and establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of the implementation of this Act within a defined time frame. The CCC shall determine whether existing regulations hamper circular economy programs and recommend lifting restrictions.</p>	<p>NEDA has reservations on designating the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as the oversight body in the implementation and monitoring of the Act because PCSD has been inactive for almost four years, as its key function to mainstream sustainable development into the country's national plans, policies, and programs is already being carried out by the Sub Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SC-SDG) under the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC). Also, given the multisectoral scope of circular economy, the PCSD may need reactivation and reconstitution, particularly expanding its membership to relevant government agencies (e.g., DTI, DOLE, DILG, Climate Change Commission, DepEd, among others). However, these members are already members of the SC-SDG.</p> <p>NEDA on Sec. 36: The Committee may consider utilizing existing institutional arrangements or interagency bodies (e.g. DBCC Subcommittee on Sustainable Development Goals) to maximize existing functions in overseeing implementation of the measure. For instance, the DBCC SC-SDG also oversees PAP4SCP implementation.</p> <p>DA: Include evaluation in this section to ensure the assessment of implementation. The proposed text shall read, as follows:</p>
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		<p><i>"Sec. 15. Monitoring and Evaluation - The PCSD shall oversee the implementation of this Act and ensure that all provisions, plans, and programs are formulated and implemented within the timelines set forth in this Act. It shall convene regularly, enjoin other relevant stakeholders, as it deems necessary, and establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of this Act. The PCSD shall determine whether existing regulations hamper circular economic activities or resource efficiency and propose interventions such as lifting existing restrictions or setting positive legal frameworks."</i></p> <p>This aligns with the National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF) established by NEDA for all government interventions.</p> <p>DENR: Sec. 15 provides that the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) shall oversee the implementation of this Act. However, considering that the House Bill shall affect the operations concerning the national economy, it is proposed that NEDA shall be the lead agency to ensure that all provisions, plans and programs are formulated and implemented.</p>
<p>Sec. 16. Citizen Participation and Community Mobilization. – The State shall take measures to enable citizen participation and community</p>	<p>CHAPTER X MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS</p> <p>SEC. 37. Citizen Participation and Community Mobilization. - The State shall take measures to enable</p>	

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<p>mobilization towards the effective implementation of this Act. In all strategies, plans, and programs, citizen participation must be ensured, and massive awareness-building shall be conducted in local government units (LGUs) to localize and inform communities on the strategies.</p>	<p>citizen participation and community mobilization towards the effective implementation of this Act. In all strategies, plans, and programs, citizen participation must be ensured, and massive awareness-building shall be conducted in local government units (LGUs) to localize and inform communities on the strategies.</p>	
<p>Sec. 17. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from existing allocations of the agencies concerned. Thereafter such sums as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.</p>	<p>SEC. 38. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from existing allocations of the government agencies concerned. Thereafter such sums as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.</p>	<p>DENR: The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the DENR stands in supporting the bill as another regulatory and policy initiative to improve circularity. However, it recognizes that mobilizing financial resources to support the initiative is critical. Hence, sufficient appropriations in all aspect of its implementation should be allocated.</p> <p>DICT: Sec. 7.2 of RA 9184 states that no procurement shall be undertaken unless it is in accordance with the approved Annual Procurement Plan, including approved changes thereto. The APP must be consistent with the duly approved yearly budget of the Procuring Entity and shall bear the approval of the Head of the Procuring Entity (HoPE) or the second-ranking official designated by the HoPE to act on his behalf.</p> <p>Although the proposed provisions on appropriations for both bills expressed that the amount necessary for the initial implementation of such shall be taken from the existing allocations of the government agencies concerned, concerned government entitles must be given</p>

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		<p>ample time prior to full implementation of this Act, to include in their respective APPs the necessary items of expense pertaining to the execution of the Act on Circular Economy to be consistent with the approved yearly budget.</p> <p>DBM: On the appropriations provision of the bill, adopt the usual appropriations language.</p>
<p>Sec. 18. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The NEDA, in coordination with the DENR, DTI, DOST, DICT, DOF, CCC, and PCSD, among other government agencies, shall issue implementing rules and regulations, within six (6) months after the effectivity of the law. Failure to issue rules and regulations shall not in any manner affect the executory provisions of the Act</p>	<p>CHAPTER XI FINAL PROVISIONS</p> <p>SEC. 39. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The NEDA, in coordination with concerned government agencies, shall promulgate implementing rules and regulations, within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act. Failure to issue rules and regulations shall not in any manner affect the executory provisions of this Act.</p>	<p>DA: Include DA as one of the sectors in the promulgation of implementing rules and regulations for circular economy.</p>
<p>Sec. 19. Separability Clause. - If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared by the Court as unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.</p>	<p>SEC. 40. Separability Clause. – If any provision or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.</p>	
	<p>SEC. 41. Repealing Clause. – Any law, decree, order, rule or regulation contrary to and inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed.</p>	
<p>Sec. 20. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.</p>	<p>SEC. 42. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.</p>	

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR ON HB 8791 AND HB 9791
“CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACT”**

CIRCULO	<p>Comments on HB 8791</p> <p>On section 1. Title, the bill is not clear what industry it is focusing on. Plastics is the most used industry in the bill that could mislead the public. Labeling it Circular Plastics Economy might be more fitting. Alternatively, the bill should consider exploring other critical commodities in detail, such as food, electronics, and construction materials, to provide a comprehensive approach to promoting a circular economy.</p> <p>On Sec. 4. Scope, the scope of the bill is too broad and vague, making it unclear to stakeholders who should comply. The lack of specific targets or deadlines for producers and consumers might lead to varied interpretations and slow implementation. Clear, actionable targets should be set to ensure timely progress.</p> <p>Having this bill focusing on green procurement would help reduce and meet possible targets. Consider aligning with the recently approved HB 9648 Government Procurement Reform Law. Moreover, institutionalizing a regulatory sandbox for circular economy initiatives under the DENR, such as refilling practices currently frowned upon by the FDA, would foster innovation and facilitate the practical implementation of circular principles.</p> <p>On Sec. 5. Product or Process Design, the provision lacks specific standards or guidelines for what constitutes “easy to recover, dismantle, and degrade.” Clearer definitions and examples would help enterprises comply.</p> <p>On Sec. 6. Innovation in Products and Services. Access to advanced technologies might be limited for smaller businesses due to high cost and lack of expertise. Additionally, not all technologies may be scalable across different sectors, potentially leading to uneven adoption rates.</p> <p>Pilot programs may be implemented to test the scalability and effectiveness of these technologies in various sectors before full-scale adoption.</p> <p>Incentives and alternative financing opportunities for circular innovation must be provided, e.g. lodged under the National Innovation Council.</p> <p>On Section 7. Role of National Government Agencies and Stakeholders, the recommendations are as follows:</p>
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1. Clarify and harmonize the relationship between PAP4SCP and NCAPAP.
2. Address the need for increased technical and human resource capacity of identified agencies; and
3. Identify a lead agency that shall conduct an annual circularity gap analysis of the country, ideally with granularity up to the provincial or city level.

On Sec. 8. Single-use Plastic Phase-Out and Source Reduction and Waste Minimization thru Polluters Pay Principle/Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes. The said provision does not provide specific details about the components of the phase-out and transition plan for single-use plastics.

Recommendations:

1. Policy and regulatory measures. This involves the implementation of laws, regulations, and policies that restrict or ban the production, sale and use of single-use plastics. It may also include the imposition of taxes or levies on single-use plastics to discourage their use;
2. Alternatives and substitutes. Promote and encourage the use of alternative materials or products that are more sustainable and environmentally friendly. This may include promoting reusable products, biodegradable materials, or encouraging the use of packaging materials that can be easily recycled.
3. Public awareness and education. Raising awareness and education among the public about the environmental impact of single-use plastics and the benefits of transitioning to more sustainable alternatives is crucial. This can be done through campaigns, educational programs, and initiatives that promote responsible consumption and waste management practices.
4. Infrastructure and waste management. Adequate infrastructure and waste management systems need to be in place to support the phase-out and transition plan. This may involve improving the recycling facilities, establishing collection and sorting systems for recyclable materials, and investing in waste-to-energy technologies.
5. Collaboration and stakeholder engagement. The success of the phase-out and transition plan relies on the collaboration and engagement of various stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, civil society organizations and the public. Partnerships and cooperation among these stakeholders are essential to drive the necessary changes and ensure the effective implementation of the plan.
6. Realistic timeline. The timeline for the phase-out of single-use plastics should be realistic and must consider the significant milestones that the producers need to achieve to eliminate single-use plastics from their value chains. These milestones include extensive R&D, Go-To-Market strategies, sourcing and transitioning to sustainable alternatives, retooling manufacturing processes, and establishing new supply chains. These steps may require more than

	<p>3 years to complete effectively. The bill should identify priority industries that must comply with the phase-out and engage in consultations to establish a realistic and achievable timeline for the transition. This approach ensures that the phase-out is practical and sustainable, minimizing economic disruptions while achieving environmental goals.</p> <p>7. Stakeholder Resistance. Industries heavily reliant on single-use plastics and linear production models might resist the changes due to perceived economic disadvantages. A phased approach with stakeholder consultations and incremental targets could mitigate resistance and facilitate smoother transitions.</p>
<p>CIRCULO</p>	<p>Comments on HB 9791</p> <p>On Sec 10. Product Stewardship. Consider establishing a regulatory sandbox for digital product passports, starting with electronics, to facilitate reuse and repurposing. Digital passports can provide detailed information on product components, usage history, and recycling instructions, promoting transparency, and enabling easier repair and refurbishment. This initiative would align with the goals of eco-design and eco-innovation by enhancing the traceability and sustainability of electronic products, thereby supporting a more circular economy.</p> <p>Social and labor concerns during transition to circular economy. The transition to new business models and production processes could lead to job losses in traditional industries. Ensuring a just transition with adequate support for displaced workers is critical. Implement comprehensive support programs for workers affected by the transition, including retraining, job placement services, and social protection measures.</p> <p>The informal waste sector is often overlooked and under-resourced. The bill should recognize and integrate the informal waste sector as a key stakeholder. The bill should provide adequate resources, training, and support to these workers to enhance their efficiency and safety, as well as access to social benefits, financial services, and capacity-building opportunities. The rights and livelihoods of informal waste workers shall be protected, ensuring their essential role is acknowledged and supported within the broader waste management and circular economy strategies.</p> <p>Modernizing the sector through a dedicated industrial policy initiative, through DOTC could further enhance the role of informal waste workers in the circular economy.</p>
<p>PLDT AND SMART</p>	<p>Product Stewardship (HB 8791 Sec. 5) (HB 9791 Sec 10)</p> <p>Promote industry best practices to reduce waste and minimize environmental footprint, particularly on the use of renewables and recycled materials in value chain activities, the mainstreaming of digital innovations such as wireless prepaid eSIM offering, and the establishment of mechanisms for the recovery, proper disposal, and recycling of electronic</p>

waste.

Ecolabelling (HB 9791 Sec. 13)

Align the country's standards on circular products with international standards, in consideration of the global supply chain and with an understanding and appreciation of the capabilities of local MSMEs to comply.

Collaborate with DTI and relevant entities, such as the AD Standards Council, to harmonize and drive industry adoption of standards, strengthen implementation of regulations, and combat greenwashing practices.

Circular and Green Infrastructure Development (HB 9791 Sec. 31)

The government needs to invest in the expansion of circular infrastructure to complement the implementation of policies and the mainstreaming of circularity solutions across the country.

Address the current gaps in the availability of accredited treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities in Visayas and Mindanao to promote the creation of more jobs, the development of skills and technical competencies among our people, and the overall enhancement of capabilities in the local circular economy.

Alongside DPWH, include the DENR, NEDA, DBM, DOST and DILG to be responsible in the acceleration of the development of circular infrastructure and green infrastructure. This will promote the harmonization of measures, the utilization of wide-ranging expertise, and the allocation of appropriate resources for the expansion of circular infrastructure in the country, covering both solid waste and hazardous waste.

Individual Environmental Responsibility (HB 9791 Sec. 21)

Conduct periodic consumer research to determine the country baseline of awareness, understanding, and readiness among consumers to adopt circular solutions.

Recommend the expansion of national government responsibilities and the inclusion of the following agencies in the promotion of circularity:

- Department of Tourism: to integrate circularity in local tourism strategies and regulations, provide platforms to scale up reach and expand the visibility of information, education and communication campaigns, as well as mobilize sectors with high consumption activities towards circularity.
- Department of Education: to reinforce the inclusion of circularity in the basic education curriculum and intensify campus and community-based programs on responsible consumption

Innovation in Products and Services (HB 8791 Sec. 6)

	<p>Adopt digital alternatives to various transactions in order to effectively reduce the use of physical resources and minimize the generation of waste.</p> <p>Promote the use of renewables and eco-efficient solutions in the telecommunication network infrastructure.</p> <p>Support to MSMEs (HB 9791 Sec. 24)</p> <p>Provide accessible and viable financial incentives for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to shift their production models and operations towards circularity.</p> <p>Incentives for Covered Enterprises (HB 9791 Sec. 30)</p> <p>Incentives in support of the circular economy must be clearly spelled out, well-structured, stable, and genuinely accessible.</p>
<p>NESTLE PHILIPPINES, INC.</p>	<p>Recommendations on HB 8791</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant incentives to local and foreign investors who are willing to provide the infrastructure necessary for recycling and developing alternative packaging materials; 2. Formulation of a roadmap and implementation framework to attract investors to build solid waste management infrastructure including collection, segregation, and advance recycling; 3. Include a provision on eco-labeling standards and a clear mandate of which government agency should lead. RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 already provides that the DTI is the implementing agency; 4. Provide sustainable and eco-friendly standards on the use of recycled material in product packaging especially for food contact packaging 5. Strengthen the role of DILG, as local government units are the key implementors of the Circular Economy and of RA 9003; 6. Strengthen the role of DOLE in providing benefits for the waste workers; 7. In Sec. 3 (q), limit the definition of single-use plastic to only those single-use plastics with viable and safe alternatives.
	<p>Recommendations on HB 9791</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The definition for "circular economy" should include designing for recyclability. The following amended definition for Sec. 4 (e), which is derived from the EPR Act is hereby proposed: <i>Circular economy shall refer to an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan AND/OR ENSURING ITS RECYCLABILITY through improved design and servicing, and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning. This intends to efficiently utilize resources by its continual use, and aims to retain the</i>

	<p><i>highest utility and value of products, components and materials at all times, through sharing, leasing, reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling in an almost closed loop; xxx</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The definition of "circular agriculture" should include the principles of regenerative agriculture. The following amended definition for Sec. 4 (f) is proposed: <i>Circular agriculture refers to a method of producing food that safeguards agro-ecosystems, prevents losses and waste of biomass and nutrients, reuses and recycles unavoidable residual streams in an efficient way and minimizes the use of energy using minimal amounts of external inputs, closing nutrients loops, regenerating soils BY IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY AND RESTORING DEGRADED SOIL BIODIVERSITY, and minimizing the impact on the environment. THIS INCLUDES IMPLEMENTING GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES SUCH AS PLANTING COVER CROPS, COMPOSTING, AGROFORESTRY AND INTERCROPPING; xxx</i>3. The definition of single-use plastic in Sec. 4 (pp) should be limited to only those single-use plastics with viable and safe alternatives.4. Commitments on Nationally Determined Contributions must be clearly defined, either in the proposed measure or in the implementing rules.5. Sec. 7 on Inclusion in the Priority Circular Economy Investment Plan (PCEIP). Include private sector and government (including LGUs) investments on research and building infrastructure for waste recovery, sortation, recycling, and alternative packaging materials.6. While Sec. 10 on Product Stewardship requires covered enterprises to provide information on the for return, reuse, recovery, and disposal of the product through product labeling, the DTI (as provided in RA 9003) should provide for and implement standards for eco-labeling, as previously mentioned.7. In Sec. 15 on End-of-Waste and End-of-Life Pathways, the permissible processes and methods of treatments referred to in "(a) [the waste] has undergone recycling or other recovery process" must be in accordance with RA 9003. The section and the bill's implementing rules (once issued) should also consider the availability of collection, segregation, and processing infrastructure as a factor for determining if waste is classified as end-of-waste/life.8. Sec. 18 on Waste Recovery should align with RA 9003 and RA 11898 or the EPR Act. Under the EPR Act, it is not mandatory for covered enterprises to organize into a Producer Responsibility Organization if it is complying on its own.9. In Sec. 19 on Regulation of Single-Use Plastics, further clarification is needed on the "single-use plastic production and consumption reduction schedule".10. While Sec. 30 provides for Incentives for Covered Enterprises, more incentives are needed to make the market attractive for investments in advanced recycling facilities and alternative
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	<p>materials. In particular, using/purchasing recycled plastic needs to be incentivized given that virgin plastic is currently the cheaper material.</p> <p>11. Existing frameworks (ex. National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter) should also be incorporated in the implementing rules of the proposed measure/s.</p>
<p>MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB</p>	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulation of Single-use Plastic Products (HB 9791, Chapter V, Section 19 and HB8791, Section 8): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consider the implications of alternative materials on food and consumer safety, product quality standards, local industries, and the environment. Single-use plastics may be important for maintaining the integrity of some food products and consumer goods. b. Harmonize the regulations regarding single-use plastics across government agencies and local government units. 2. Uniform Standards for Eco-Design (HB 9791, Chapter III, Sec 11): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish the national standards for eco-design principles to ensure consistency and clarity for all stakeholders. This may be done as part of the mandate of the Bureau of Philippine Standards. b. For the same provision, define the safe or acceptable concentration levels for unavoidable toxic substances in products, instead of an outright ban. This approach will help manage environmental impact while allowing for technological and industrial feasibility. <p>Regarding HB 9791, Sec. 5, MBC will assist in the identification and development of a multi-level or tiered approach to circularity, allowing different levels of readiness and capabilities among businesses to ensure effective implementation.</p>
<p>Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability, Inc. (PARMS)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PARMS supports the call for a more streamlined and consistent regulatory environment as suggested by Tetrapak. A unified framework across all levels of government will facilitate smoother implementation of circular economy practices and reduce the burden on business adapting to new regulations. 2. Consistent with Jollibee's observations, PARMS advocates for the integration of circular economy principles into existing laws rather than creating new legislative layers. This approach will leverage current mandates of agencies like DENR, DTI, DILG, and DOF, ensuring that the circular economy goals are met through enhanced enforcement of current regulations and encouraging policy cohesion. 3. The different government agencies should adopt a single model of a Circular Economy to have a unified legislative and executive agenda. This will ensure consistency and clarity in the implementation of circular economy initiatives. 4. PARMS proposes the establishment of a formal mechanism for ongoing dialogue between the government, industry stakeholders, and civil society to ensure that all voices are heard and that regulations are adaptable to technological advances and market changes. 5. The government should provide incentives for the research and development of sustainable materials and recycling technologies

	<p>through tax incentives, grants, and support programs that lower the barrier to entry for new and existing companies to invest in circular economy technologies.</p> <p>6. PARMS recommends increased investment in educational campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of the circular economy. Public and private sector partnerships should be encouraged to develop training programs that equip the workforce with the necessary skills to thrive in a circular economy.</p>
<p>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p>	<p>Recommendations on HB 9791</p> <p>1. Define sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The definition of terms should clearly differentiate and establish commonalities between circular economy, SCP, and other similar terms. This is a first important step in clarifying the scope of circular economy, as is being advocated by this Act.</p> <p>2. Insert a new section between Section 4 and 5, to read as follows:</p> <p><i>"Circular value chain addition, integration and linkages through a systems or portfolio approach. - Recognizing that Circular Economy does not merely follow pre-existing linear chains of materials or services, a systems or portfolio approach shall be applied to design and implement Circular Economy suites of interventions. Mechanisms to provide opportunities for other value chains to be created or integrated shall be elaborated at national, regional and local levels."</i></p> <p>This is based on the reality that CE cuts across multiple sectors, actors and supply value chains and should be featured in Section 5 "Circular Economy Strategy Framework" and Section 6: "Priority Circular Economy Investment Plan."</p> <p>3. Insert a new section between Section 9 and 10, to read as follows:</p> <p><i>"Role of Local Government Units (LGUs) and Local Stakeholders in Integrating Local Circular Economy Programs. - LGUs are encouraged to institute city or municipality-wide CE portfolio or umbrella programs anchored, as appropriate, in its current or proposed local economic development, investment, environmental, tourism, or sectoral plans, roadmaps and/or programs. The DILG, in collaboration with NEDA, DENR, DTI and DOST, shall provide support to LGUs in the form of capacity building, green/circular criteria in local government performance, development of local CE policies, and multi-stakeholder/sectoral partnership building"</i>.</p> <p>This is based on the reality that LGUs and local stakeholders, including MSMEs and GEDSI groups, have the power and influence to implement customized circular economy approaches based on local needs, circumstances, and pivot/entry points.</p> <p>4. Section 8: Assessment process - The description under this section seems to describe life cycle assessment (LCA); It is suggested for this</p>

section to provide explicit guidance on how to develop a standard formula to measure, evaluate and report waste avoidance or reduction impacts, which is the essence of circular economy.

As guidance, the commonly used indicator to measure waste avoidance/reduction is the "reduction of per capita waste generation" or "reduction of per capita or per entity waste generation disaggregated according to material type (to also safeguard from inadvertent increase in generation of material X due to reduction in material Y)".

[Additional note: A formula or indicator for circular economy were already spelled out in the law. This recommendation is based on observation that under RA 9003, LGUs tend to interpret, in multiple ways, how they would report waste diversion rates, e.g. (a) generated waste minus disposed waste all over generated waste, (b) collected minus disposed all over collected waste, (c) sum of all diversion activities, (d) tons or cubic meters]

Furthermore, aside from decrease in per capita waste generation (which is just one of the environmental performance indicators), true circular economy should also be measured with socio-economic indicators, such as creation of new and local industries, revival of permaculture practices and techniques, creation of new green jobs, integration of GEDSI stakeholders in the circular value chain, more geographically equitable distribution of economic opportunities, etc.

5. Chapters III to V - A lot of stakeholders know some examples or applications of CE, but not the universe of options/actions that can be classified as CE; This law should be the main guide to bring that full scope and clarity - what is the system boundary of CE and what is not CE.
6. **Section 16: Obligations of enterprises** - Although an extended producer responsibility option identified in the EPR Act (RA 11898), waste disposal, per se, is not technically classified as a "circular economy" option, unless there is a "recovery" component in a disposal facility.
Circular economy scope and hierarchy may be best described by 10Rs or the R-strategies of CE.
7. **Section 19: Sustainable consumption** - Even though CE encompasses all types of materials and services (e.g. not just plastic packaging), it might be best if scope and formula for a single-use plastic production and consumption schedule should be coherent with waste diversion (RA 9003) and EPR targets (RA 11898). Otherwise, the law could specify repeal or amend provisions.
8. **Section 20: Sustainable pricing** - The law should spell out the CE "green premiums" as a mandatory category in DTI's implementation of the CREATE Act. Otherwise, the decision to include CE would still go through the existing prioritization process before such initiatives could avail of incentives.
9. **Section 22: Circular procurement** - If the plan is to mandate government offices, the appropriate term used should be "circular public procurement"

	<p>For the law to be effective at the operational level, "green products" shall be selected, not merely prioritized even if the green products are not the cheapest in cost.</p>
	<p>Recommendations to HB 8791</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Definition of "Circular economy" – The definition must be consistent with RA 11898 which defines "Circular Economy" as an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning. This intends to efficiently utilize resources by its continual use and aims to retain the highest utility and value of products, components, and materials at all times, through sharing, leasing, reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling in an almost closed loop" - The law should clearly differentiate (but establish commonalities) between the terms CE, SCP, etc. 2. Scope of circular economy - Recommends that the scope should be inclusive to all possible applications to be tagged as "CE" should include all types of materials, including organics, electronics, etc. and clearly distinguish which action is considered CE and which are not. 3. Section 9. Circular public procurement program. - Targets, and general/common formula to be used, should already be set by law to avoid future misinterpretations. In addition to national agencies, LGUs may also be part of those that will submit their CPPP to GPPB. 4. Section 34. Role of Government Agencies - Mandates DepEd to incorporate circular economy into the learning modules; and for schools to demonstrate circular economy practices in their operations
<p>PCX SOLUTIONS</p>	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonize the definition, terminology, and standards with regard to circular economy and align with globally accepted terminology to ensure that the efforts of the Philippines can be coordinated with the rest of the world. This will also provide the best means to easily adopt and modify Philippine laws, policies and standards with those that have already been developed tested and implemented by other countries and/or organizations. <p>Just recently, the International Organization for Standards (ISO) has published ISO 59004:2024 Circular Economy – Vocabulary, principles and guidance for implementation, ISO 59020:2024 Circular Economy – Measuring and assessing circularity performance, and ISO 59010:2024 Circular Economy – Guidance on the transition of business models and value networks. These standards have gone through enough review and rigor to be well suitable for the Philippines.</p> <p>The establishment of standards for packaging is important not only for the circular economy aspiration but also allows competition in terms of requirements for export to countries that require sustainable packaging and product design standards.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Align and integrate with related laws. - The private companies are still striving to reach compliance with RA 11898 or the EPR Act of 2022 and the government agencies are still in the process of developing and

implementing enabling policies, as well as monitoring and reporting mechanisms. **Laws covering the same subject matter such as banning single-use plastics and plastics tax, or related matters should be well integrated and not contradictory to each other** so as not to discourage private sector compliance. Private sector needs clarity for them to prioritize their actions and budgets. It is with the support of the private sector that laws are implemented properly, thus it is necessary that their obligations are properly phased in.

In addition, the provision on green premiums stated in HB 9791 should be integrated in the labeling requirements, guidelines, and incentives within the EPR law as it would encourage enterprises to implement strategies aiming for more circular product and packaging design.

All policies should aim for long-term systemic change. Therefore, it is important that all policies are harmonious and well-coordinated across all stakeholders.

3. Interagency cooperation and capability and capacity of government agencies and institutions to implement. - The roles and responsibilities of specific government agencies are clearly defined in the bills. However, it is important to ensure that all relevant government agencies are provided with the capacity and capability to play their roles so as not to burden the implementation of the law unto one single agency.
4. Availability of criteria, methodologies, and standards. - PCX recommends reconsidering the 6-month timeline for the formulation of the IRR because several provisions would require a set of developed criteria, methodologies, standards and mechanisms for monitoring, auditing and reporting of compliance. This is to ensure that all enabling policies and standards are in place and have undergone public consultation, prior to implementation of the law.

The provision on Product Stewardship Covered Enterprises embodies true circular economy and is aligned with the Global Plastic Treaty.

5. Coverage of law - The transition requirements to circular economy for different types of enterprises (large, medium, small and micro) may be tiered according to capacity, but with the end goal of meeting the same level of responsibility and accountability after a sufficient period of time.
6. Incentives for private sector funding and investment - Encourage private sector investments and funding by providing explicit allowances, incentives and mechanisms in the law.

PCX is working with DENR to develop "Infrastructure Credits." An infrastructure credit is an outcomes-based financing mechanism that will enable the obliged enterprises to fulfill their EPR compliance responsibilities through contributions to plastic waste management infrastructure development. The concept operates on a simple premise: for every infrastructure credit purchased or obtained, an obliged

enterprise gains the ability to compensate for the recovery and diversion of one metric of plastic waste. However, unlike other financing mechanisms that rely solely on compliance contributions, any company or organization may also voluntarily purchase infrastructure credits. This mechanism facilitates the rapid mobilization of funds, administered through credible financial institutions like the ADB, enabling earlier investment in critical infrastructure projects. The pooled funds from both compliance-related and voluntary purchases can be immediately directed toward infrastructure development as soon as the credit system is established. This proactive funding approach allows critical infrastructure projects to be started even before additional funding from the Global Plastic Treaty becomes available. Through this mechanism, private sector funding can be channeled into infrastructure development and ensure that the recycling capacity gap will be decreased, plastic processing activities will be more robust, and future demands for efficient plastic waste management – including the 80% recovery and diversion compliance target by 2028 – will be met. This infrastructure credit scheme could be applied for any type of material or waste stream and could work well in the national circular economy framework in terms of incentivizing private sector funding, as well as relieving some of the burden from the government.

7. Just transition and inclusion- Recommends adding monitoring and evaluation of the support given to MSMEs and those affected by the transition to circular economy, to ensure that there are sufficient livelihood opportunities given and taken advantage of. This ensures that it is not only in policy where just transition exists, but more importantly in practice.

8. Single use plastic phase-outs/ban, tax, EPR, NEAPs and alternatives

The Ecological solid waste management act of 2000 has existed for more than 20 years now. It required the NSWMC to come up with non-environmentally acceptable products. To date, there have only been 2 NEAPs identified (plastic straws and plastic stirrers), and even now, these have not yet been effectively phased out. This statement is not to criticize the work that has been done, but to state that it takes very comprehensive studies (including life cycle assessments, material flow analysis not only of the NEAPs but also of the intended alternatives) to be able to identify NEAPs. Sufficient resources must be given to these assessments and studies so that the progress for phasing out is accelerated. We can also look to existing directives in other countries or regions such as the EU Directive on SUP as guidance for identification of materials for phase-outs/bans, tax, or EPR.

Reexamine the overlapping policies such as EPR, Materials (plastics or others) tax, and bans as there would be a potential in contradicting or confusing policies for the private sector that could lead to non-compliances.

Consider the effects of bans and phase outs not only on covered

	<p>enterprises but also on consumers. There should be a clear path to viable, available, and affordable alternatives, and business should be able to receive technical support from the government to be able to transition towards these alternatives.</p> <p>Further, there needs to be a clear criteria for determining problematic, avoidable, short-lived plastics (SUPs) and other materials versus those that are essential or emergencies, relief operation, medical applications, food safety and security, and health and hygiene. This may form the basis of identification of further NEAPs. There are already existing research and studies on such criteria and determination and these can be adopted by the PH.</p> <p>9. Caution against greenwashing. - There are several terms in the definitions that may be prone to inappropriate usage and claims. There must be extreme care in the authorization of claims are 'green' or 'eco'. Prior to authorization or approval of such claims, there must be a clear, public, and well-defined criteria and standard that is passed by whoever is making the claim. Any notion of greenwashing subjects the country to attacks from consumers, civil society and the global community, and could decrease the credibility of our laws and policies.</p>
<p>PHILIPPINE BUSINESS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARSHIP (PBEST)</p>	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt a pragmatic and evidence-based approach. While restricting single-use plastics is a laudable goal, PBEST cautions against blanket bans or phase-outs without thorough assessment of viable and cost-effective alternatives. The 2020 Life Cycle Assessment report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Life Cycle Initiative found that plastic bags have lower environmental impacts than some alternatives like paper bags in terms of climate change and water use. For instance, while paper bags in landfills emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas, plastic bags remain relatively inert. Prematurely banning plastic packaging could increase food waste, raise consumer costs, and undermine the success of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act. Allowing the EPR law to be fully implemented is recommended before considering additional restrictions. 2. Define and differentiate 'Unnecessary' Plastics. Unnecessary plastics are products that can be reduced, substituted with better alternatives, or eliminated without compromising product access, safety or causing worse environmental impact. This is based on the definition of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organization Ltd (APCO), an independent, not-for-profit company established to administer the Australian Packaging Covenant of the Australian government. Meanwhile, some plastics may have uses across almost all sectors of the economy, such as electrical and heat insulation. Differentiating 'unnecessary plastics' from those with significant benefits allows for a targeted phase-out of truly unnecessary and problematic plastics while retaining those critical for sectors like food preservation, healthcare, and technology.

	<p>3. Promote Eco-Design and Green Innovations Rather than upfront bans, support incentivizing eco-design whereby products are designed to be durable, repairable, recyclable, and to minimize life-cycle environmental impacts. Facilitation of green technologies like dematerialization, modular designs, 3D printing and technology transfers can drive circular innovations across industries.</p> <p>4. Establish Clear Metrics and Transition Timelines The bill should establish clear metrics to measure circularity, natural resource impacts, and guide evidence-based policymaking. Sector-specific and time-bound targets can drive progressive improvements while providing regulatory certainty for businesses to make investments towards compliance.</p> <p>5. Ensure a Just Transition Transitioning towards a circular economy will have socioeconomic impacts that must be proactively managed. The legislation should incorporate provisions for worker reskilling, social safety nets, facilitating growth of green jobs, and leveraging circular economy opportunities for sustainable enterprises and industries.</p> <p>6. Leverage Collaborative Governance Given the transformative nature of this transition, the legislation should establish mechanism for continued dialogue between government, businesses, civil society, academe, and communities. This allows co-creation and improvement of circular economy policies and programs based on outstanding issues and evolving priorities. The proposed legislation can be strengthened through pragmatic, evidence-based approaches centered on promoting circularity, investment in eco-innovations, clear targets with transition timelines, a just transition framework, and institutionalized multi-stakeholder collaboration.</p>
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