

September 8, 2009



AMERICAN

**Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile**

Senate President  
Senate of the Philippines  
Room 606, 6th Floor  
GSIS Building, Financial Center  
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City



AUSTRALIAN-NEW  
ZEALAND

Dear Senate President Enrile:

With the Senate now in session for the final year of the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress and the interest of many legislators shifting towards the 2010 election campaign, we the undersigned representatives of Philippine business groups and foreign chambers of commerce communicate our support for final passage of the bills listed below. Five of these have been passed by the House of Representatives (noted by asterisk) and can quickly move to the Bicam Committee once approved by the Senate.

Prior to the last LEDAC meeting, we wrote on June 10 to President Macapagal Arroyo, House Speaker Nograles and yourself to emphasize the importance of final passage of priority economic legislation for a more rapid recovery of the Philippines from the global economic crisis and improved national competitiveness.

According to our current information, economic reform bills now pending in the Senate are:

1. **Amendment to Customs Brokers Act\* SB 3396** (pending 2nd reading);
2. **Department of Information and Communication Bill (DICT)\* SB 2546** (pending 2<sup>nd</sup> reading) and endorsed by President Macapagal Arroyo in her SONA;
3. **Freedom of Access of Information Bill\* SB 3308** (pending 2<sup>nd</sup> reading);
4. **Rationalization of Fiscal Incentives Bill\*** (pending in Economic Affairs Committee);
5. **Simplified Net Income Tax Scheme\* (SNITS)** (pending in Senate Ways and Means Committee (SWMC));
6. **Anti-Smuggling Bill** (pending SWMC);
7. **Amendments to the BSP Charter Bill** (pending in SWMC);
8. **Land Use Bill** (pending in Natural Resources Committee);
9. **Residential Free Patent Bill** (pending in Constitutional Amendments Committee); and
10. **OECD Tax Compliance Amendments** (pending in SWMC).



CANADIAN



EUROPEAN



As you know the Amendments to BSP Charter and SNITS bills were specifically endorsed by the president in her recent SONA.

Further, we wish to inform you we have sent a similar letter to House Speaker Nograles to urge passage by the House of economic reform measures already passed by the Senate, as well as the two aforementioned bills endorsed by the president.

Finally, we thank you for the passage by Congress and enactment into law in recent months of the **Documentary Stamp Tax Exemption Act (RA 9648)** and the **National Tourism Policy Act (RA 9593)**.



We also note that two economic reform bills are ready for consideration by the Bicam Committee, namely the **Pre-Need Code** and the **Real Estate Investment Trust Bill**. We look forward to their early enactment.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your efforts and those of your Senate colleagues to achieve the passage and enactment of these bills.



JAPANESE

Sincerely yours,

**Austen Chamberlain**  
*President*  
American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

**Richard Mills**  
*President*  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



**Richard Barclay**  
*President*  
Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

**Hubert D'Aboville**  
*President*  
European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



KOREAN

**Topper Coronel**  
*Executive Director*  
Bankers Association of the Philippines

**Miguel Valera**  
*President*  
Employers Confederation of the Philippines



**Oscar Sanz**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Business Processing Association – Philippines

**Roberto T. Borromeo**  
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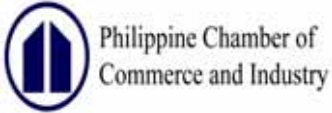


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*President*  
Philippine Export Confederation

**Eun Gap Chang**  
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