

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **3521**

Introduced by: **ATTY. MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID**
4th District, City of Manila

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **Sierra Madre** is a mountain range in the Philippines. It is the longest in the country and runs the eastern length of Luzon island. It starts in the province of Cagayan in the north and ends in Quezon in the south, just east of Laguna de Bay. It tails to the west as it reaches the province of Nueva Vizcaya to form the Caraballo Mountains, with which it sticks with the Cordillera Mountain range.

Sierra Madre is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna essential in the maintenance of ecosystems. This mountain range provides materials and produce for the livelihood of countless people living near it. Its windward side provides protection to lives and properties during typhoons and tropical depression coming from the Pacific Ocean.

At present, the Sierra Madre is threatened by continuous degradation due to illegal logging and "kaingin". These practices contribute largely to soil erosion and deterioration of the remaining thick forests within the whole stretch of Sierra Madre.

In conclusion, there is a need to highlight the importance of preserving and protecting Sierra Madre involving both government and people's organizations shown through concerted efforts of both parties.

It is with this view that immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ATTY. MA. THERESA BONOAN-DAVID
4th District, City of Manila

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AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 26 OF EVERY YEAR AS “SAVE SIERRA MADRE DAY” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the “Save Sierra Madre Day Act”.

Section 2. It is hereby declared that September 26 of every year as “Save Sierra Madre Day”, which shall be the culmination of year long activities geared toward the protection and preservation of Sierra Madre.

Section 3. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the concerned local government units and people’s organizations, shall formulate and implement information-education campaign activities within their respective areas of jurisdiction with the end goal of protecting and preserving Sierra Madre. Such activities shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the conduct of seminars and training sound ecological forest management, (2) organizing of advocates, and (3) tree planting and reforestation.

Section 4. If for any reason, any portion or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

Section 5. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.