

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4460

Introduced by Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides:

The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Global warming is now almost unanimously accepted as a serious problem that is man-made – primarily through the use of fossil fuels – and that demands concrete remedial action as soon as possible. History has shown that in the past, events like the temporary boycott by some of the major petroleum producers in the 1970's highlighted that countries have a national security problem related to both price and availability of one of our main energy sources. The problems of protecting the environment and conserving energy are both inescapable and of a pressing nature.

Over the decades, there has not been a dearth of ideas on how to advance our "right to a balanced and healthful ecology." Earth Day, for example, was first celebrated on 22 April 1970 in the United States. It is now observed in more than 175 countries annually. It is meant to inspire awareness and appreciation of our environment. Experience has shown, however, that one day in a year is not enough to sustain a culture of environmentalism. The monthly reminder and push that this bill provides will guarantee a sustained response to the challenges posed by scarce resources and global warming.

This bill will require the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Education, along with other stakeholders, to provide information, coordination, and support services to public and private entities in ensuring a systematic and lasting effort of protecting the environment.


HON. MARK AERON H. SAMBAR
Representative, Powersang Bayaning Atletang Palaro List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____ 4460

Introduced by **Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar**

1 AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY
2 OF EVERY MONTH AS EARTH CONSCIOUSNESS DAY

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Monthly Observance of
4 Earth Consciousness Day Act of 2011.”

5 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to afford full
6 protection and the advancement of the right of the people to a healthful ecology in accord
7 with the rhythm and harmony of nature. In this light, the State has adopted the Philippine
8 Agenda 21 framework which espouses sustainable development, to fulfill human needs while
9 maintaining the quality of the natural environment for current and future generations.

10 As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the
11 State adopts the ultimate objective of the Convention which is the stabilization of greenhouse
12 gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic
13 interference with the climate system which should be achieved within a time frame sufficient
14 to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not
15 threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

1 SECTION 3. *Special Working Holiday.* - In recognition of the need to establish a
2 comprehensive and lasting national consciousness of protecting the environment, the first day
3 of every month is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as "Earth
4 Consciousness Day".

5 SECTION 4. *Activities that shall be undertaken in observance of this occasion.* -

6 (a) Heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned and
7 controlled corporations, local government units and employers in the private sector shall,
8 together with their employees, organize, engage or participate in activities designed to raise
9 public awareness on protecting the environment.

10 (b) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the
11 Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with nongovernmental organizations
12 (NGOs) shall lead public and private school communities in organizing consciousness-raising
13 activities on the need to protect the environment. Each primary and secondary school shall
14 plant at least one (1) seedling every first day of the month in observance of Earth
15 Consciousness Day. They shall also emphasize the need to conserve energy and shall
16 disseminate ways to lower everyone's energy consumption.

17 SECTION 5. *Rules.* - The Secretaries of the DENR and the DepEd shall, within sixty
18 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, jointly promulgate rules and regulations to carry out
19 and enforce the provisions of this Act.

20 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation
21 of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DENR and the DepEd.
22 Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full implementation shall be included in the
23 annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and separate item.

1 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or
2 **unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain**
3 **valid and subsisting.**

4 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 **order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent**
6 **with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.**

7 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 **publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.**

Approved,