

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1812

Introduced by HON. FLORENCIO C. GARAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As global warming and climate change threaten to engulf the Earth, the need to protect the environment and repair the damage man has wrought upon it is once more brought to the fore.

The clamor to save our forests can no longer be ignored. The spate of typhoons and other climactic changes that deluged our country underlined one basic, irrefutable fact: Forests are essential to life. This holds true particularly in the Second Congressional District of Surigao del Sur.

The Second District of Surigao del Sur is providentially situated between the seas and the forests. It is the site of the last remaining dipterocarp forests. Surrounded by forests and watersheds, our District has been blessed with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of water. However, rampant illegal logging activities within the former PICOP concession area, which have expanded even to the protected watershed areas and to the ancestral domain of our LUMMADS (League of United Manobos, Mamanwa and Mandaya of Agusan, Davao and Surigao), threaten to drain our District of the water resources necessary to sustain life in our communities.

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. Pursuant thereto, this bill seeks to impose a logging ban in the Second District of Surigao del Sur in order to maintain the ecological balance and promote the sustainable development of our forest resources.

In view of its national and local importance, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FLORENCIO C. GARAY

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AN ACT
IMPOSING A LOGGING BAN IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE
OF SURIGAO DEL SUR

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

SECTION 1. A logging ban is hereby imposed in the Second District of the Province of Surigao del Sur.

SEC. 2. For purposes of this Act, "logging" shall refer to the process, work or business of cutting down trees for commercial purposes.

SEC. 3. The harvesting of planted species within tree plantations and the tree-cutting activities for projects approved by the government and only for basic services such as, but not limited to, public works, energy development or water utilities are exempted from this Act; *Provided*, That any harvesting or cutting of tree species shall comply with all pertinent environmental and forestry laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,