



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4589**



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Marcelino C. Libanan, Jonathan Clement M. Abalos II, Christopher Sheen P. Gonzales, Stephen James T. Tan, Reynolds Michael T. Tan, Niko Raul S. Daza, Edwin Marino C. Ongchuan, Lolita T. Javier, Anna Victoria V. Tuazon, Richard I Gomez, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Roger G. Mercado, Christopherson M. Yap, Gerardo J. Espina, Jr., Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

AN
ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERSEA TUNNEL OR
BRIDGE FROM THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO THE PROVINCE OF
NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The geographical separation between the island of Luzon and the Visayas regions has long posed significant challenges to the seamless movement of people, goods, and services. The San Bernardino Strait, which separates Sorsogon in Luzon from Northern Samar in the Visayas, serves as a natural barrier to the economic integration of these two regions. Currently, the transportation link between these provinces is heavily reliant on ferries, which are subject to weather disruptions, capacity limitations, and inefficiencies.

A direct, reliable connection between Sorsogon and Northern Samar will facilitate the more efficient movement of goods and services. This will bolster trade, stimulate local economies, and enhance the competitiveness of businesses in both regions. The bridge or tunnel will create a new gateway for tourists traveling between Luzon and the Visayas, promoting regional tourism and contributing to the cultural and economic vibrancy of both provinces.

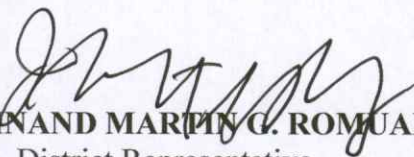
Moreover, unlike ferry services, which can be disrupted by inclement weather, a bridge or tunnel will provide a continuous and dependable transportation link. This will reduce travel time, lower transportation costs, and improve overall accessibility for residents, businesses, and travelers. Further, the infrastructure will offer a safer alternative to sea travel, especially during typhoon seasons and adverse weather conditions, thereby reducing the risk of maritime accidents.

Consequently, by physically connecting Luzon and the Visayas, this project will enhance national cohesion, making it easier for Filipinos from different regions to connect, share resources, and collaborate. This symbolic and practical unification will strengthen the sense of national identity and promote equitable development across the archipelago.

The construction of a bridge or tunnel will have strategic importance by improving the mobility of people and resources between the two regions. This infrastructure can be crucial for disaster response, national defense, and maintaining the integrity of the Philippine territory.

The proposed law for the construction of a bridge or undersea tunnel between Sorsogon and Northern Samar is not merely an infrastructure project; it is a bold step toward national integration, economic prosperity, and improved quality of life for the Filipino people. The benefits of such a project will resonate far beyond the immediate regions, contributing to the nation's long-term development goals. It is, therefore, imperative that this legislative measure be given the highest priority to ensure the realization of this transformative vision.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



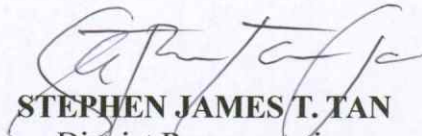
FERDINAND MARTIN C. ROMUALDEZ
District Representative
Leyte, 1st District



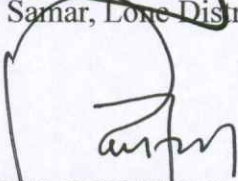
MARCELINO C. LIBANAN
Representative
4Ps Partylist



CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES
District Representative
Eastern Samar, Lone District



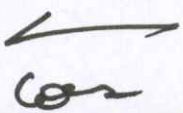
STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN
District Representative
Samar, 1st District



REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN
District Representative
Samar, 2nd District



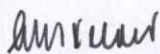
NIKO RAUL S. DAZA
District Representative
Northern Samar, 1st District



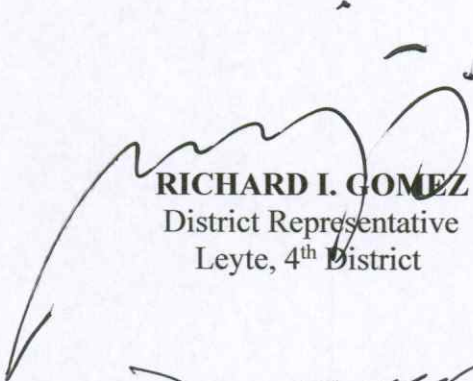
EDWIN MARINO C. ONGCHUAN
District Representative
Northern Samar, 2nd District



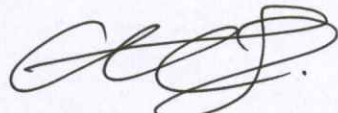
LOLITA T. JAVIER
District Representative
Leyte, 2nd District



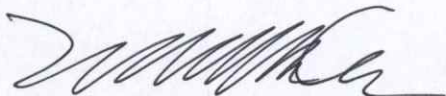
ANNA VICTORIA V. TUAZON
District Representative
Leyte, 3rd District



RICHARD I. GOMEZ
District Representative
Leyte, 4th District



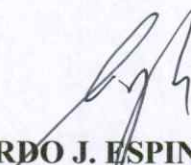
CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
District Representative
Leyte, 5th District



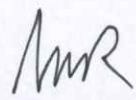
ROGER G. MERCADO
District Representative
Southern Leyte, 1st District



CHRISTOPHERSON M. YAP
District Representative
Southern Leyte, 2nd District



GERARDO J. ESPINA, JR.
District Representative
Biliran, Lone District



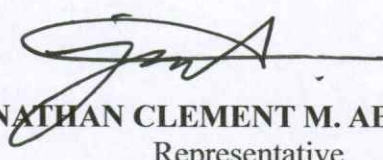
ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative
Tingog Partylist



JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative
Tingog Partylist



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative
Tingog Partylist



JONATHAN CLEMENT M. ABALOS, II
Representative
4Ps Partylist



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

SECTION 1. There shall be constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) an undersea tunnel or bridge, from the Province of Sorsogon to the Province of Northern Samar, including access roads thereto.

SECTION 2. The funding for the feasibility study and engineering design shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), and shall be undertaken by a qualified international consulting firm with proven experience in similar long-span bridge or undersea tunnel projects. To uphold the quality, credibility, and global competitiveness of the outputs, the study should be financed through grant funding or technical assistance from development partners. Thereafter, the Secretary of the DPWH shall include in the Department's program the construction of said undersea tunnel or bridge, the funding of which shall be included in the annual GAA.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,