



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR

Representative
2nd District of Palawan

January 7, 2022

MS. MA. LOURDES G. FERRER, CESO III

Regional Executive Director
1515 L & S Building, Roxas Boulevard
Ermita, Manila

Dear **RED Ferrer**:

Warm greetings from South Palawan!

This Representation has filed House Bill (H.B.) No. 5421, "An Act Declaring a Parcel of Land of the Public Domain, Located in Barangays Bunog, Iraan, Punta Baja, Campong Ulay and Ransang of the Municipality of Jose P. Rizal, Province of Palawam, As Agricultural Land Open to Disposition for Agricultural, Commercial, Residential, and Other Productive Purposes." This proposed legislation was already approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives on February 16, 2021 and is now pending before the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change.

With the primordial aim of protecting the State's natural resources, as well as to support and promote the tenets of sustainable economic development in the province of Palawan, the above-mentioned House Bill proposes conversion and reclassification of certain portions of the above Barangays' public lands from timberland to alienable and disposable land, while at the same time sub-classifying other portions as forestland for specific purpose.

However, through a letter, the Forest Management Bureau have emphasized that most of the areas identified, if not all, falls within the Palawan Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary by the virtue of Proclamation 219 s. 1967.

They reiterated that reclassifying certain portions of the area's public lands from timberland to alienable land will defeat the purpose of the proclamation to protect the unique wildlife found in the area and maintain the forest in an undisturbed state as a game refuge and bird sanctuary.

Nevertheless, we also believe that reclassifying these areas is of great significance as it will help us achieve our shared goal of increasing agricultural, commercial, residential, tourism land areas available for disposition to the local populace; contribute to economic growth in general; and ensure the proper conservation and management of public lands.

Thus, we respectfully seek your Office's opinion and position a qqu on this matter. We value the Department's technical expertise, and shall take this into account in assessing the best course of action regarding this proposed measure.

Thank you very much and *mabuhay po kayo!*

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '1/f zaldivar'.

CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR

Representative
Second District, Palawan