

Villafuerte proposes eco-friendly ‘climate tax’

Published February 6, 2017, 7:37 AM | Manila Bulletin

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Environmental warriors are bound to support Camarines Sur 2nd district Rep. LRay Villafuerte’s proposed “climate tax” on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Villafuerte authored and filed House Bill (HB) 4939, or the “Piso Para sa Kalikasan Act,” which seeks to impose a climate or carbon tax on electricity—equivalent to P1 per one kilogram of CO₂ emission—on the monthly electricity bills of residential or household consumers.



Electricians from Meralco perform maintenance work on power installations on Agham Road in Quezon City yesterday. Meralco said the scheduled shutdown of the Malampaya gas project early this year can cause an increase in electricity rates of about P1 per kilowatt-hour. (Mark Balmores | Manila Bulletin)

Proceeds from the said tax will be used solely for programs designed to help the most vulnerable Philippine communities adapt better to erratic weather patterns and other disastrous effects of global warming.

Consumers whose monthly electricity consumption do not exceed 60 kilowatt-hours (kWh) or those using renewable energy (RE) sources will be exempted from paying the proposed climate tax.

“This bill’s purpose is two-pronged: It is a revenue generating measure but, at the same time, also a tool to protect and preserve the environment,” Villafuerte said,

Villafuerte said the proceeds of the fund can be used to explore alternative and cleaner sources of energy, provide better public transportation and disseminate climate change awareness.

(Article retrieved from: <http://news.mb.com.ph/2017/02/06/villafuerte-proposes-eco-friendly-climate-tax/>)