

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3710

Introduced by Representative Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prohibit the exploration of coal and the installation of any coal power plant in the Second Legislative District of Bohol.

Bohol is a first-class province known as the "*Jewel of the Philippines*." It is endowed with stunning landscape made up of hills, rivers and beaches. Bohol prides itself with beautiful scenery that is enjoyed by both local and foreign tourists.

Some of the top and popular tourist destinations in Bohol are located in the Second Legislative District which is composed of the municipalities of Bien Unido, Buenavista, Clarin, Dagohoy, Danao, Getafe, Inabanga, Pres. Carlos P. Garcia, San Isidro, San Miguel, Talibon, Sagbayan, Trinidad and Ubay. Most of the hills of the famous *Chocolate Hills* are situated in the Municipality of Sagbayan, while the popular nature park, the *Danao Adventure Park*, is in the Municipality of Danao. At present, all local government units in the Second Legislative District are taking concrete actions to make it the first "*Green District*" in the province by promoting the use of renewable and efficient energy and by implementing measures for sustainable development.

Recently, it was reported that there is a plan to establish coal power plants in Bohol which is strongly opposed by citizens groups, faith-based organizations and environmental advocates in the province, citing the negative impacts of the plan in the environment and health of the people. Coal fired power plants emit harmful substances to the environment such as mercury, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, mercury, selenium and arsenic. These chemicals cause acid rain and produce toxic substances that are hazardous to

health. Of all energy resources, coal is one of the most injurious to the environment and health. Further, coal by-products cause a lot of pollution which contributes to global warming and climate change.

This bill aims to prohibit the exploration of coal and the installation of any coal power plants in the Second Legislative District of Bohol, to protect its environment and people from the negative effects of these activities.

This measure is a move towards the attainment by Bohol province of its vision to be *“a prime eco-cultural tourism destination and a strong, balanced agro-industrial province, with a well-educated, God-loving and law-abiding citizenry, proud of their cultural heritage, enjoying a state of well-being and committed to sound environmental management.”*

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



ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUMENTADO

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1
2 **AN ACT**
3 **PROHIBITING THE EXPLORATION OF COAL AND THE**
4 **INSTALLATION OF ANY COAL POWER PLANT IN THE SECOND**
5 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF BOHOL, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES**
6 **FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF**

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

9 SECTION 1. It is hereby prohibited to explore coal or install any coal
10 power plant in all municipalities of the Second Legislative District of Bohol
11 which includes the municipalities of Bien Unido, Buenavista, Clarin, Dagohoy,
12 Danao, Getafe, Inabanga, Pres. Carlos P. Garcia, San, Isidro, San Miguel,
13 Talibon, Sagbayan, Trinidad and Ubay.

14 SEC. 2. Any person, natural or juridical, who violates this Act shall
15 suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more
16 than six (6) years and a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos
17 (P500,000.00) but not more than Three million pesos (P3,000,000.00).

1 If the offender is a juridical entity, the highest ranking official and the
2 members of its board of directors or trustees who authorized the violation shall
3 suffer the penalty imposed under this Act.

4 SEC. 3. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter
5 of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
6 with any provision of this Act is hereby amended or modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved,