

Financial constraints in the agricultural sector are a constant threat to the farmers laying them on the brink of bankruptcy and charging them for irrigation fees is like adding insult to injury. Water is a God given resource that should be free to all, whether

it should sustain man's bodily functions or for purposes of growing crops to feed mankind.

Hence, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. **3595**

Introduced by Representative Estrellita B. Suansing

AN ACT

REQUIRING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION TO RENDER FULL IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES FREE OF CHARGE FOR QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES AND WAIVE ALL UNPAID IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Irrigation
2 Service Fee for Qualified Beneficiaries Act of 2016.”

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Under Article II, Section 9 of the 1987
4 Philippine Constitution, “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that
5 will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from
6 poverty thru policies that provide adequate social services to promote full employment,
7 a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all.” It is therefore the duty
8 of the State to provide irrigation services at no cost to qualified beneficiaries as one of
9 the means to raising the standard of living.

10 **SECTION 3. Qualifications for Waiver of Irrigation Service Fees.** – All
11 Filipino farmers whose farm lands cover an area not greater than five (5) hectares shall
12 be exempt from the payment of irrigation service fees.

13 **SECTION 4. Waiver of Unpaid Irrigation Service Fees.** – All unpaid irrigation
14 service fees due from a landowner whose farm lands cover an area not greater than five
15 (5) hectares are hereby waived by the Government.

16 **SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days
17 from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall, in coordination with

1 NIA and after consultations with directly affected stakeholders, promulgate the
2 necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

3 **SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason, any provision of this Act
4 is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall
5 remain in full force and effect.

6 **SECTION 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, presidential
7 decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the
8 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9 **SECTION 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following
10 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

11 Approved,