

Philippine Business Groups Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Phils.), Inc. ♦ Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines ♦ Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Makati Business Club ♦ Management Association of the Philippines, Inc. ♦ Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc. ♦ Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry ♦ Semiconductors Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.



April 13, 2018

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang, Manila

To: **Salvador C. Medialdea**
Executive Secretary

Secretary Adelino B. Sitoy
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office

Dear **President Duterte**:

We, the undersigned business organizations, request for your office to certify for immediate enactment Senate Bill No. 1754 or "An Act Amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act, as Amended, and for Other Purposes." This will urge the Senate to prioritize the approval of SB 1754 on second and third reading before the Senate adjourns *sine die* on June 1, 2018.

The House of Representatives approved this vital piece of economic legislation, House Bill No. 5828, on September 8, 2017. The Senate version was sponsored by Senator Grace Poe, Chair of the Senate Public Services Committee, on March 20, 2018. However, due to the many items in the Senate's agenda, the bill was not considered for approval on second reading before adjournment.

With the Senate on a nearly two month recess, there will only be eight session days left before the legislature adjourns its second regular session. Your certification of the bill as urgent is therefore very important for the Senate to prioritize the measure and assure rapid passage on third reading before it adjourns on June 1.

There is a public necessity to enact this bill as it will open ownership and operation of the telecommunications and other sectors by removing them from the list of public utilities. It will facilitate the entry of a third telecommunications player, as you have set as an urgent administration priority. More importantly, it can stimulate substantial foreign investment, bringing in much needed capital and technology into the capital-intensive telecommunications and transport sectors. Further, the amendments will update several provisions in the Public Service Act thereby enhancing public service and consumer welfare.

Thank you. We look forward to your office's action on this matter.



AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND



CANADIAN



EUROPEAN



JAPANESE



KOREAN



Management Association of the Philippines



MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB
THE FORUM FOR CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS



PAMURI



PCCI



Sincerely yours,

BRUCE WINTON

President

American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

TOM GREALY

President

Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

JULIAN PAYNE

President

Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

GUENTER TAUS

President

European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

CALIXTO V. CHIKIAMCO

President

Foundation for Economic Freedom

REY UNTAL

President and CEO

IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines

NAOTO TAGO

President

Japanese Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

HO IK LEE

President

Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

EDGAR O. CHUA

Chairman

Makati Business Club

RAMONCITO FERNANDEZ

President

Management Association of the Philippines, Inc.

EVELYN NG

President

Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.

ALEGRIA S. LIMJOCO

President

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

SERGIO LUIS ORTIZ JR.

The Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc.

DANILO C. LACHICA

President

Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.

CHRISTOPHER G. NARCISO

President

Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc.

Cc.

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Department of Finance

Secretary Ramon Lopez

Department of Trade and Industry

Secretary Ernesto Pernia

National Economic and Development Authority

Secretary Eliseo M. Rio

Department of Information and Communications Technology

Secretary Arthur Tugade

Department of Transportation

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III

Senate President

Rep. Pantolon Alvarez

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sen. Grace Poe

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Services

Rep. Arthur Yap

Chairman of the House Committee on Economic Affairs