

# Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines Philippine Business Groups

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. ♦ Foundation for Economic Freedom ♦ IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines ♦ Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Makati Business Club ♦ Management Association of the Philippines ♦ Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc. ♦ Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry ♦ Semiconductors Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.



**AMCHAM**  
**PHILIPPINES**

AMERICAN

October 24, 2018

**Sec. Ernesto M. Pernia, PhD**

Socio-Economic Planning Secretary and Director-General  
National Economic and Development Authority

No. 12 St. Jose Maria Escriva Drive  
Ortigas Center  
Pasig City

Dear Secretary Pernia:

We the undersigned Philippine business groups and foreign chambers are writing to request that NEDA recommend to President Duterte to certify as urgent the Public Service Act amendments bill in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

We are very concerned that the bill has yet to be approved by the Senate. After passing the House on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on September 8, 2017, a hearing was held in the Senate Committee on Public Services on February 15, 2018 and the bill was quickly reported out on March 19, 2018. Sponsorship speeches were made by Senator Poe and Senator Gatchalian on March 20, 2018.

Since then there has been no further legislative progress in the Senate, where this important measure is pending the period of interpellation and amendment and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading votes.

Should there be major differences between the House version and the final Senate version, a bicameral conference committee would remain the final hurdle to resolve such differences before final votes of approval in the two chambers and subsequent enactment by the president.

We have continuously expressed our support for this bill in Congressional hearings and most recently in correspondence sent to Congressional leadership.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Congress is rapidly running out of time to complete major legislation. Session resumes from November 12 to December 14 and from January 14 to February 8, 2019, or only eight weeks of session.

Enactment of the PSA amendments bill will lead to more foreign investment in public services in the country. This should result in more competition and better quality and lower prices of public services in the future. The greatest beneficiary of the reform will be Philippine consumers.



AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND



CANADIAN



EUROPEAN



JAPANESE



The PSA amendments bill is also – along with the open access bill – among the major advanced legislative reforms that implement the third point of the president’s Socioeconomic Agenda to increase the competitiveness of the national economy and to reduce barriers to foreign investment. There remains little time to complete enactment.

We sincerely thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely yours,



*James D. Wilkins*  
**JAMES WILKINS**  
President

American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

*Daniel Alexander*  
**DANIEL ALEXANDER**  
President

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

*Julian Payne*  
**JULIAN PAYNE**  
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Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.



*Guenter Taus*

**GUENTER TAUS**  
President

European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

*Calixto Chikiamco*

**CALIXTO CHIKIAMCO**  
President  
Foundation for Economic Freedom

*Rey Untal*

**REY UNTAL**  
President and CEO  
IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines



Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

*Naoto Tago*  
**NAOTO TAGO**  
President

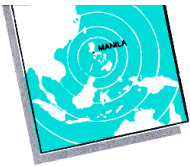
Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc.

*Hoik Lee*  
**HOIK LEE**  
President

Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

*Edgar O. Chua*  
**EDGAR O. CHUA**  
Chairman

Makati Business Club



PAMURI

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**RAMONCITO FERNANDEZ**  
President

Management Association of the Philippines

*Evelyn Ng*  
**EVELYN NG**  
President

Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.

*Alegria S. Limjoco*  
**ALEGRIA S. LIMJOCO**  
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*Daniilo C. Lachica*

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