

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.
Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils., Inc. • Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.

January 21, 2022

HON. SHARON S. GARIN

Chairperson, Committee on Economic Affairs
Representative, AAMBIS-OWA Party List
House of Representatives
Quezon City, MM

Dear Chairperson Garin:

This pertains to our letter dated January 18, submitting recommendations on the disagreeing provisions of the House Bill 78 and Senate Bill 2094, amending the Public Services Act.

In our letter, we recommended the retention of the definition of “Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs)” in the Senate version. (Sec. 3 (k)). Thus, implying our support for the inclusion of Public Utility Vehicles in the definition of “public utilities”.

Upon reconsideration by our members, we recommend instead the adoption of the House version which does not include PUVs in the definition of public utilities and therefore leaving this service sector fully open for foreign ownership.

This position is consistent with the position of our members since international carriers would still be able to undertake their first and last mile of delivery services. As we explained in our previous letter, international freight carriers are not “vehicles for hire” and should be allowed to pick up and deliver to their customers in the Philippines, as they do in most of the world. Allowing this will encourage these global firms to invest more in international gateways, as they have at Clark, and increase the role of the Philippines as a regional air cargo hub, which in turn will attract new export manufacturing firms to locate in the country.

Moreover, the adoption of the House version would be more advantageous to the Philippine economy as it will increase competition in vital domestic land transportation services and will also result in increased foreign investment without any risk of displacing Filipino workers in the land transportation business, including the mechanics that service the PUVs.



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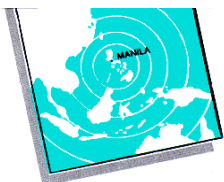
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Lastly, this position is also consistent with the principle that PUVs are not natural monopolies and therefore do not meet the definition of public utility under the bill.

Thank you again for considering our recommendations.

Regards,



FRANK THIEL
President
American Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines



DANIEL ALEXANDER
President
Australian-New Zealand
Chamber of Commerce of the
Philippines



JULIAN PAYNE
President
Canadian Chamber of
Commerce of the
Philippines



LARS WITTIG
President
European Chamber of
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KEIICHI MATSUNAGA
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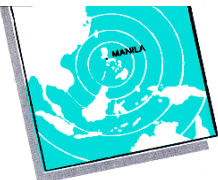
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