

December 4, 2023



HON. JONATHAN KEITH FLORES

Chairperson, Committee on Government Reorganization
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City



Re: Request to conduct a public hearing on House Bills on the creation of Philippine Transportation Safety Board

Dear Chairperson Flores:



The undersigned members of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines write to request your Committee **to conduct a public hearing on House Bills 1801, 7638, and 7836 creating the Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB).**



The pending bills seek **the creation of a non-regulatory and independent agency attached to the Office of the President to be the primary agency responsible for the conduct of impartial investigation on transportation-related accidents and incidents.** The main objectives of the PTSB are: (a) to improve transportation safety measures to help prevent transportation accidents and mitigate of dangers to human lives and property; and (b) to upgrade transportation safety standards and create implementing rules to prevent accidents and incidents based on factual scientific findings of past accidents and/or incidents.



At present, all investigations on transportation accidents are undertaken by the government agencies that have regulatory powers over the respective sector of the transportation industry (CAAP for aviation; MARINA for maritime; LTRFB, PNP, LTO, and MMDA for road accidents). Because most of these agencies are also tasked to regulate and/or operate the sector, there is an inherent conflict of interest in the performance of their duties as investigating bodies.



This gap in the bureaucracy provides a compelling reason to effect institutional reforms to enhance the standards of transportation safety measures, prevent transportation accidents in the future, and mitigate dangers to human lives and property.



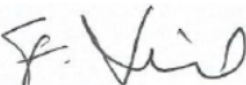
The legislation was approved at the end of the 18th Congress but was vetoed early in the term of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. Since then, multiple stakeholders and government agencies have expressed support for the creation of the PTSB. The Senate Public Services Committee has deliberated on a revised version this 19th Congress and reported it out to plenary as Senate Bill 1121.

We hope that your Committee can conduct counterpart deliberations in the House and refine the bill so that the reasons cited for the veto can be addressed and the bill be eventually enacted this Congress.


Thank you very much for considering our views. We look forward to the enactment of this vital legislation.

Sincerely yours,





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President
American Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines,
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BENJAMIN ROMUALDEZ
President
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cc:

House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez
Senate Public Services Chairperson Sen. Grace Poe
Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte
Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba
Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez