

A. Climate Change and Energy

1. Yes, we will support both initiatives. The Philippines has a commitment to reduce CO2 emissions as a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (ratified by the Senate in 2003) and we have to fulfill our obligation.
2. Yes. It is high time that we pass a renewable energy legislation with realistic and binding renewable energy targets. We also agree that we need to wean ourselves away from our over dependence on fossil fuels if we want to become fully industrialized. The Bio fuels law which was signed into law, under my watch as senate president, is a step in the right direction.
3. Some possible legislation:
 - i. Constructing bike lanes and encouraging companies to provide incentives (eg. Shower and dressing rooms) for employees who bike to work;
 - ii. Measures that will make the mass transport system more efficient and friendlier to the riding public

B. Water

1. In general, yes. Water is life and its protection will redound to the health of the populace.
2. Water quality and quantity are two very important issues that we need to address. On the issue of water quality, we will propose to refile bills penalizing water pollution. As regards, water quantity, I will propose measures to protect the aquifers and the watersheds.
3. We will exercise our oversight function over the National Water Resources Board and the Local Water Utilities Administration to make sure they do their job well.

C. Solid Waste

1. We will determine the real reason for the delay in the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act provisions regarding the establishment of Materials Recovery Facility and the closure of dumps. If the problem is funding then the Senate may be able to do something about it.
2. We are willing to listen to suggestions as to how we can integrate waste pickers into the whole system of waste management.
3. Yes, an incentive system such as end of product life recall or trade-ins need to be encouraged and institutionalized.
4. Yes. In the meantime, incentives, again should be given for the production and use of biodegradable packaging. A few years back,

there were already talks about research on biodegradable plastic. If this indeed is true, then we must pursue it.

D. Toxic Waste Trade and JPEPA

1. We will need a thorough review before deciding on whether to vote for or against its ratification. You can rest assured that our vote will take into account the best interest of our country and our people.
2. We will need to read and review it before deciding on whether to vote for or against the ratification of the Basel Convention. The Philippines should not be made a dumping ground of toxic and hazardous wastes for whatever reason.
3. Yes. Manufacturers should be held responsible for the end-of-life of products they produce.

E. GMOs

1. Our biodiversity remains one of our most important resources therefore, if we must conduct field tests of GMOs, these must be strictly regulated in order that the potential for contamination will be very minimal if not zero.
2. We have no objections as long as they are adequately labeled as such. The important thing is to inform the consuming public and educate them regarding GMOs so that they can make intelligent choices.
3. Yes. We think the public should be made aware of the contents of products they are about to consume. With mandatory labeling, they are informed and can then decide whether or not to consume a certain product.

F. Sustainable and Organic Agriculture

1. Yes to both questions. One way for our farmers to be competitive is for us to market our products as "organic".
2. Yes. This has to be a gradual but time-bound shift in order to give our farmers and makers of chemical farm implements time to adjust.

G. Logging

1. We are willing support a Forest Resource Management Law that will seek to place under sustainable and proper management every hectare of forestland in the country.
2. Yes.

H. Mining

1. We can propose higher insurance bonds on the part of mining companies to cover whatever damage their operation might cause. There are adequate safeguards to make mining companies pay for the damage that they may cause.
2. Yes. A community-based small scale mining is more sustainable as it involves the whole community which has ownership of the project. The community will make sure that their mining operations will not be detrimental to their health and environment.
3. Areas that are declared protected or ancestral domain should be exempt from the provisions of the mining act.

I. Air Pollution

1. We need to assess the implementation of the Clean Air Act, more than 8 years after its passage to find out what needs to be amended. Second hand engines are not bad per se. They, however, need to conform to standards set by our regulatory agencies.
2. Lower tariffs on the importation of Hybrid cars, and to encourage manufacturers to locally produce Hybrid cars

J. Environmental Track Record

As Senate President of the Republic of the Philippines, I have spearheaded and steered the passage of the following landmark legislative measures during this 13th Congress which will certainly and greatly contribute to the cause of saving and protecting our environment:

1) Republic Act No. 9367 – Biofuels Act of 2006

- Approved on Third Reading by the Senate on October 11, 2006 (S.B. No. 2226)
- Signed into law by the President on January 12, 2007

This law directly addresses our country's energy, economic and environmental problems and concerns through the following: 1) by increasing our energy independence from foreign petroleum supply by providing an indigenous alternative to gasoline by way of bioethanol and to diesel by way of biodiesel (particularly coconut methyl ester); 2) by spurring the growth of our rural economies by creating and developing markets for agricultural crops such as coconut and sugar; and 3) by improving our air quality by providing cleaner-burning alternatives to fossil fuels, which is in line with the Clean Air Act of 1999 that seeks to formulate a holistic national program of air pollution management.

As such, this law mandates that all liquid fuels for motors and engines shall contain locally-sourced components. It provides that biofuel shall refer to bioethanol and biodiesel and other fuels made from biomass and primarily used for motive, thermal and power operation. Within two years from the effectivity of this measure, a minimum of 5% of bioethanol fuel shall be blended into all gasoline fuel distributed and sold. A Philippine Biofuel Board (PBB) is created which shall periodically review and assess the economic, technical, social and environmental impact of the use of biofuel.

2) Senate Bill No. 2600 - Providing for the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1992 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage with the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage

- Approved on Third Reading by the Senate on February 19, 2007

This bill shall apply exclusively to Pollution Damage caused in Philippine territory, including its territorial sea and its exclusive economic zone, and to preventive measures wherever taken, to prevent or minimize such damage.

It contains chapters or provisions on liability on pollution damage, who may be liable, exemptions from claims for compensation for pollution damage, limitation of liability, system of compulsory insurance and certification and action for compensation, among others.

It shall establish an Oil Pollution Management Fund (OPMF) to be administered by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

3) Senate Resolution No. 92 - Concurrence to the Cartagena Protocol of Biosafety to the United Nations Convention on Biological Biodiversity

- The Senate concurred with the ratification of this Protocol as it was approved on Third Reading on August 14, 2006.

This Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes an advance informed agreement procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their territory.

This Protocol has its roots in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity which is dedicated to promoting sustainable development which has three main goals: 1) the conservation of biodiversity, 2) the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and 3) the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources.

The Senate's concurrence with the ratification of this Protocol therefore addresses our country's need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live in.

4) Senate Resolution No. 99 – Concurrence in the Accession of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources

- The Senate concurred with the ratification of this International Treaty as it was approved on Third Reading on November 6, 2006.

Its objectives are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

The environment and future generations of our country shall benefit from our concurrence to this International Treaty because it will help conserve the genetic diversity necessary to face unpredictable environmental changes, and future human needs of our nation.

As Senator of the Republic of the Philippines during this present Congress, I have authored 20 bills concerning the environment right at the start of the 13th Congress in June 2004. The following are among the key bills that I filed geared at saving and protecting our environment which I will continue to work for their passage in the 14th Congress:

- 1) **Senate Bill No. 657** or the “Greening Act of 2004”. – It seeks to make open spaces in human settlement sites as “breathing spaces” which therefore requires the planting of trees in open spaces of subdivision projects developed for residential, industrial, or commercial purpose, and which provides that no subdivision project shall be approved without the inclusion of a tree-planting program in its plans.
- 2) **Senate Bill No. 713** or the “Recyclable or Biodegradable Materials for the Packaging of Consumer Products Act”. – It seeks to set a general policy to require manufacturers to use recyclable or biodegradable materials for the packaging of consumer products which will contribute in a significant way in limiting the discharge of non-biodegradable elements in our environment.
- 3) **Senate Bill No. 714** or the “Environment Friendly Act”. – It seeks to declare unlawful the use of polycarbon plastics, styrofoam and other synthetic materials harmful to the environment and establishing a

criterion for the endorsement of environment friendly consumer products.

As Senator and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations during the 12th Congress from 2001-2004, I have authored and sponsored the following laws concerning the environment:

- 1) **Republic Act No. 9168** or the "Philippine Plant Variety Protection Act". - It provides for the protection and security of the exclusive rights of breeders of new plant varieties and provides incentives to investments needed in the development of new plant varieties.
- 2) **Republic Act No. 9175** or the "Chainsaw Act". - It provides for the regulation of the ownership, possession, sale, importation and use of chain saws, penalizing violations.
- 3) **Republic Act No. 9275** or the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004".
- 4) Senate's Concurrence to the Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- 5) Senate's Concurrence to the Ratification of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (with Annexes I and II).
- 6) Senate's Concurrence to the Ratification of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
- 7) Senate's Concurrence to the Ratification of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
- 8) Senate's Concurrence to the Ratification of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- 9) Senate's Concurrence to the Ratification of the Agreement between the Philippines and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute Acting in Administration of the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) Relating to the INIBAP Office for Asia and the Pacific.

As Speaker of the House of Representatives during the 11th Congress from 1998-2000, I have spearheaded and steered the passage of several landmark environmental laws such as the following:

- 1) **Republic Act No. 8749** or the “Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999”. – It intends to bring the citizenry into a national cooperative and self-regulatory effort to clean the air we now breathe, and to ensure that our children will continue to enjoy the same. It therefore provides for state environmental policies on motor vehicle pollution, fuels & additives, and corresponding fines and penalties, among others.

- 2) **Republic Act No. 9003** or the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”. – It provides for a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall, among others, ensure the protection of the public health and environment and also ensure the proper segregation, collection, transport, storage, treatment and disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adoption of the best environmental practice in ecological waste management excluding incineration.