

13 September 2019

REPRESENTATIVE WESLIE T. GATCHALIAN

Chairperson
Committee on Trade and Industry
House of Representatives
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City, Philippines

Dear **Representative Gatchalian**:

We are pleased to submit the Department's position on the proposed legislation, entitled:

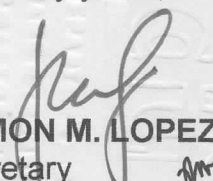
House Bill No. 2188

"An Act Implementing a 'Free-Use Policy' for Ancillary Services Like Toilets or Restrooms in Malls, Shopping Centers, and Similar Establishments and Prescribing Fines for Violation Thereof"

This is without prejudice to the Department's submission of additional inputs.

With my best regards.

Very truly yours,


RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DTI Position on

House Bill No. 2188

“An Act Implementing a ‘Free-Use Policy’ for Ancillary Services Like Toilets or Restrooms in Malls, Shopping Centers, and Similar Establishments and Prescribing Fines for Violation Thereof”

The Department supports the objective of the proposed legislation to promote the interest of consumers, specifically those patronizing businesses by implementing a “Free-Use Policy” for ancillary services like toilets or restrooms in malls, shopping centers, and similar establishments.

It is our view that the provision of sanitary and well-maintained ancillary services should be part of the core responsibilities of owners of malls, shopping centers, and similar establishments.

This measure is seen to align with the United Nations’ general principles for consumer protection, specifically in the promotion and protection of the economic interests of customers.¹ With patrons frequenting these establishments, the legislation aims to ensure that they obtain the optimum benefit from their economic resources.

Additionally, we suggest the promulgation of regulations on the required parameters for sanitary facilities in business establishments² subject to Republic Act (RA) No. 6541 or the National Building Code of the Philippines, in order to ensure the quality as well as adequate number of these facilities.

The Department reiterates its support for the objective of the bill to implement a “Free-Use Policy” for ancillary services like toilets or restrooms in malls, shopping centers, and similar establishments.

Rayapinchay

**Bureau of Trade and Industrial Policy Research
13 September 2019**

Ref: BTIPR-092019-75

¹ United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection, accessed at https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditccplpmisc2016d1_en.pdf

² Classified under Group E in CHAPTER VII of the revised RA No. 6541