

14 October 2019

REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON

Chairperson

Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development

House of Representatives

Batasang Pambansa Complex

Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Dear **Representative Lacson**:

We are pleased to submit the Department's position on House Bill No. 2300, entitled:

“An Act Creating the Office for Information and Regulatory Affairs as Inter-Agency Structure to Undertake Regulatory Review and Take Charge of All Regulatory Affairs of Small, Medium, and Large Business, Enterprise or Activity and for Other Purposes”

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. 2300

“An Act Creating the Office for Information and Regulatory Affairs as Inter-Agency Structure to Undertake Regulatory Review and Take Charge of All Regulatory Affairs of Small, Medium, and Large Business, Enterprise or Activity and for Other Purposes”

The Department welcomes the intention of the proposed bill to further improve the ease of doing business (EODB) in the country by creating a specialized government agency whose sole mandate is to ensure the streamlining and simplification of regulatory laws and policies for convenient compliance of businesses, especially micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), as well as to assess regulatory frameworks based on a cost-benefit analysis.

The DTI notes the passage of Republic Act (RA) No. 11032, otherwise known as the “*Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*” (EODB law), which enshrines the streamlining and simplification of regulatory laws, compliance processes, and frontline government services. RA 11032 also stipulated the creation of an anti-red tape unit within the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to review the abidance of government agencies according to the law, as well as to decide on cases relating to erring/noncompliant government employees and officials. Furthermore, RA 11032 also established the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) with the mandate to oversee the implementation of the law, harmonize government procedures for streamlining and simplification, as well as assess the agencies and operations of the government within the purview of the law.

In compliance with the stipulations of RA 11032 and in coordination with ARTA, the Department launched an internal undertaking at the start of the year for the inventory and review of its business-related and business-affecting regulations, spearheaded by the DTI-Legal Service.

In view of the foregoing, the Department opines that the existence of RA 11032 and ARTA already satisfies the intention of the proposed bill. Therefore, we express reservations towards the proposed bill, citing Section 5 of RA 11032 which seeks to eliminate redundancies in law and government initiatives for the sake of efficient public service.

The Department reiterates its specific views on the proposed bill, for consideration.


Bureau of Trade and Industrial Policy Research

14 October 2019

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