



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Special Committee on Southern Tagalog Development

25 July 2005

MR. ROBERT WALLACK
Sr. Information System Expert
Pacific Consultants International
Telefax 521-0998

Dear Mr. Wallack:

The Special Committee on Southern Tagalog Development will hold a meeting/public hearing on 02 August 2005, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at Conference Room 4 R.V.Mitra Bldg., House of Representatives. The agenda includes discussion on the proposed SLEX (South Luzon Expressway) Extension project, the STAR (Southern Tagalog Arterial Road) Tollway Stage II and the PPA Flyover at Boibok, Batangas City covered by the Batangas Port Development project Phase II.

In this regard, the Committee would be most honored to hear your views, comments, suggestions and recommendations on the said subject matter. You may submit your official position paper or any document/s related thereto to the Committee Secretary at the 3/F RVMitra Bldg on or before 02 August 2005.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

For the Chair:
Special Committee on Southern Tagalog Development
HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS

Isabelita R. Magnaye
ISABELITA R. MAGNAYE
Committee Secretary
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Fixed Thu, 7/28
Am

July 27, 2005

Robert L. Wallack, Consultant, United States of America
**Comments for Republic of the Philippines, House of Representatives,
Special Committee on Southern Tagalog Development**

Tuesday, August 2, 2005
Conference Room 4, R.V.Mitra Bldg, House of Representatives

Seaports throughout the world are connecting their land operations and seaport activities as a strategic advantage. A key part of marketing a port to international shipping lines and shippers is the smooth road networks required to move shipping containers to and from the port area for inland transport. The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) for the Batangas Port is in need of a completed and reliable highway system to serve inland areas.

Major distributors of consumer products in the Manila area are finding growth in the nascent logistics and supply chain industry of 30 to 35 percent per year. The increase in business will bring the development of new distribution centers away from the congested metro Manila area. Batangas Port can serve the CALABARZON industrial growth, but not without inland highway and road networks. The lack of Tollway systems puts the Philippines in a competitive disadvantage to promote the necessary infrastructure in order to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) as compared to other countries.

Country	Length of Tollroads	Date
Philippines	185 km.	2005
Thailand	170 km.	1997
Malaysia	1,831 km.	1996
Indonesia	472 km.	1997

(Source: Pacific Consultants International)

Clearly, the geographical advantage of Batangas Port cannot be fully realized in an intensely competitive shipping environment until shipping lines and shippers are confident that inland connections are complete and maintained for the rigors of international container traffic. It is imperative that the SLEX (South Luzon Expressway) Extension project, the STAR (Southern Tagalog Arterial Road) Tollway Stage II and the PPA Flyover at Bolbok, Batangas City as well as supporting road networks complete construction on time in the interest of the national economy.