



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

30 April 2009

CONG. LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
ABA-AKO Party List

Hon. Elias Bulut, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Agrarian Reform
House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Bulut:

May I propose a rewriting of the second paragraph of Section 5 of House Bill No. 4077 (under Committee Report No. 506), to read as shown below. Bracketed words are to be deleted.

"RURAL WOMEN SHALL REFER TO WOMEN WHO PERFORM PRODUCTIVE [AND/OR REPRODUCTIVE] AGRICULTURAL AND/OR HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY-BASED LABOR, INCLUDING HOME AND FAMILY MANAGEMENT, OR WOMEN WHO ARE ENGAGED EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN FARMING AND/OR FISHING AS THEIR SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID, REGULAR OR SEASONAL. [REPRODUCTIVE LABOR REFERS TO ACTS PERFORMED BY RURAL WOMEN NECESSARY FOR PRODUCTIVE WORK LIKE FOOD PREPARATION, MANAGING THE HOUSEHOLD, CARING FOR THE CHILDREN, ETC.]"

JUSTIFICATION

The term "**HOUSEHOLD-BASED LABOR**" with reference to rural women has its common understanding and usage, which is, that it refers to women/mothers' work in the farm-family home in the nurturance of her family-her spouse, their children and the extended family characteristic of our Filipino family culture.

In the context of Section 5 and in light of the general intent expressed in the bill itself, "**HOUSEHOLD-BASED**" LABOR captures the above meaning. The term also forecloses the use of the word "ETC", which unnecessarily fuels ambiguity and misinterpretations; hence, "ETC" should be deleted.

"**REPRODUCTIVE**", as referring to rural women's LABOR, is likewise inappropriate.

In the current wording of Section 5, "**REPRODUCTIVE LABOR**" is used together with "**food preparatic household management, and care of children**", which are all **HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY-BASED** tasks encapsulated in the more appropriate term "**HOUSEHOLD-BASED LABOR**".

I believe that the above-proposed revision will address adequately the bill authors' concerns on uplifting a lot of rural women and, at the same time, avoid terminology that may give rise to unnecessary controversy over otherwise noble piece of legislation.

Very truly yours,

Leonardo Q. Montemayor