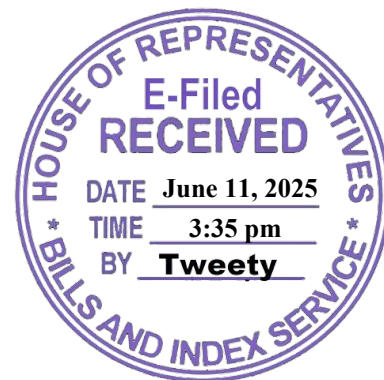


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1514

Submitted by the Committees on Public Works and Highways and Appropriations
on June 11, 2025

Re : House Bill No.10748

Recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors : Representatives Romeo S. Momo Sr., Stella Luz A. Quimbo, and
Marcelino C. Libanan

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Public Works and Highways and Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 10748, introduced by Representative Marcelino C. Libanan, entitled:

“AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERSEA TUNNEL OR BRIDGE FROM THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO THE PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

have considered the same and recommend its approval without amendment, with Representatives Marcelino C. Libanan, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Salvador A. Pleyto, James “Jojo” A. Ang Jr., Celso G. Regencia, Augustina Dominique “Ditse Tina” C. Pancho, Ambrosio C. Cruz Jr., Ricardo S. Cruz Jr., Gerardo “Gerryboy” J. Espina Jr., Lani Mercado-Revilla, Sergio C. Dagooc, Richard I. Gomez DPA, and Christian Tell A. Yap, as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted

ROMEO S. MOMO SR.

Chairperson
Committee on Public Works and
Highways

STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO
Senior Vice-Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **10748**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MARCELINO C. LIBANAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The geographical separation between the island of Luzon and the Visayas regions has long posed significant challenges to the seamless movement of people, goods, and services. The San Bernardino Strait, which separates Sorsogon in Luzon from Northern Samar in the Visayas, serves as a natural barrier to the economic integration of these two regions. Currently, the transportation link between these provinces is heavily reliant on ferries, which are subject to weather disruptions, capacity limitations, and inefficiencies.

A direct, reliable connection between Sorsogon and Northern Samar will facilitate the more efficient movement of goods and services. This will bolster trade, stimulate local economies, and enhance the competitiveness of businesses in both regions. The bridge or tunnel will create a new gateway for tourists traveling between Luzon and the Visayas, promoting regional tourism and contributing to the cultural and economic vibrancy of both provinces.

Moreover, unlike ferry services, which can be disrupted by inclement weather, a bridge or tunnel will provide a continuous and dependable transportation link. This will reduce travel time, lower transportation costs, and improve overall accessibility for residents, businesses, and travelers. Further, the infrastructure will offer a safer alternative to sea travel, especially during typhoon seasons and adverse weather conditions, thereby reducing the risk of maritime accidents.

Consequently, by physically connecting Luzon and the Visayas, this project will enhance national cohesion, making it easier for Filipinos from different regions to connect, share resources, and collaborate. This symbolic and practical unification will strengthen the sense of national identity and promote equitable development across the archipelago.

The construction of a bridge or tunnel will have strategic importance by improving the mobility of people and resources between the two regions. This infrastructure can be crucial for disaster response, national defense, and maintaining the integrity of the Philippine territory.

The proposed law for the construction of a bridge or undersea tunnel between Sorsogon and Northern Samar is not merely an infrastructure project; it is a bold step toward national integration, economic prosperity, and improved quality of life for the Filipino people. The benefits of such a project will resonate far beyond the immediate regions, contributing to the nation's long-term development goals. It is, therefore, imperative that this legislative measure be given the highest priority to ensure the realization of this transformative vision.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ML', written over a horizontal line.

MARCELINO C. LIBANAN
Representative
4Ps Partylist



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **10748**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MARCELINO C. LIBANAN**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERSEA TUNNEL OR
BRIDGE FROM THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO THE PROVINCE OF
NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) an undersea tunnel or bridge, from the Province of Sorsogon to the Province of Northern Samar, including access roads thereto.

SECTION 2. The amount necessary to defray the cost of undertaking and completing the feasibility study and detailed engineering for this project and other activities related thereto shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, the Secretary of the DPWH shall include in the Department's program the construction of said undersea tunnel or bridge, the funding of which shall be included in the annual GAA.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,