



OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature

For Immediate Release

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Senator Perez provides Statement on Bill 175-37 (COR)'s Status in Session

***Hagåtña, Guam* – On Tuesday, Senator Sabina Flores Perez issued the following statement in response to ongoing attempts by the Sponsor to rush Bill 175-37 (COR), introduced by Sen. Chris Duenas, out of committee:**

“Rushing a bill out of committee without proper vetting undermines the good faith efforts of legislative debate that are intended to promote transparency and accountability as elected leaders.

The Committee continues to meet its obligations in a timely manner to move Bill 175-37 at an appropriate pace given the impacts that the Bill will have on the environment, the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, and our people as explained by multiple GovGuam agencies.

Bill 175-37 aims to drastically increase the density of septic systems over our aquifer. Agency officials have already expressed concern over this section (Section 7) of the Bill through testimony provided at the public hearing. Of particular importance is that no scientific evidence has been provided to demonstrate that the Bill's proposal is safe, beneficial, and practical.

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency testified that an increase in the density of septic systems, especially over the Groundwater Protection Zone (GPZ), would cost ratepayers millions of dollars per water well to treat contaminated water. This will impose an enormous cost and hardship on the people of Guam, their access to clean water and their health.

GEPA: ‘The public should not bear the risks associated with high-density *unsewered* development over our aquifer.’

Guam Waterworks Authority testified that ‘There exists no such data provided by proponents of Bill 175 that demonstrate *no adverse impact* to the sole source aquifer resulting from an increase in the development density.’ GWA further testified that “such an action would lead to significant degradation to the NGLA and ignores the potential for even further contamination from emerging contaminants for which no studies or data yet exist to preclude the possibility of further PFAS contamination of groundwater sources.’

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Coastal Management Program provided testimony which warned that piecemeal parceling is a common tactic by private developers to circumvent the Subdivision requirement to manage stormwater, which can result in increased flooding threats to Guam's urban areas without proper stormwater infrastructure. Bill 175-37 (COR) will create a regulatory condition that will allow for development practices that will have reasonable and foreseeable impacts on our water resources and increase threats to flood hazards.’



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Therefore, the Committee process must continue to move at the intended rate, and we should all be paying attention to this issue.”

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