



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
Tel: 415-703-2381
Fax: 415-703-2057

JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

<http://dra.ca.gov>

April 10, 2012

Honorable Mark Leno
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1350 (Leno) - Support

Dear Senator Leno:

DRA (Division of Ratepayer Advocates) is the independent consumer advocate within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). DRA's statutory mandate is to obtain the lowest possible rate for utility service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. DRA also advocates for customer and environmental protections in connection with utility service.

DRA supports your SB 1350, which would authorize the CPUC to use safety-related fines or penalties collected from investor-owned gas corporation to offset the costs associated with implementing gas safety measures, as specified.

The tragic San Bruno pipeline explosion revealed that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has failed to prudently invest ratepayer funds in pipeline integrity management as required by law. Yet, PG&E customers are being asked to pay billions of dollars to overhaul PG&E's pipeline integrity management system. If ratepayer-funding as proposed by PG&E is approved by the CPUC, this will be a significant financial burden placed upon PG&E customers. SB 1350 would help mitigate this financial burden to PG&E customers by using the money to improve gas safety.

DRA supports SB 1350 and looks forward to working with you to ensure this bill is enacted into law.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call DRA's Legislative Advisor Rebecca Tsai-Wei Lee, at (916) 327-1407 or me at (415) 703- 2381.

Respectfully,

Joseph P. Como, Acting Director
Division of Ratepayer Advocates

By
Rebecca Lee
Legislative Advisor