



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

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April 12, 2012

Honorable Curt Hagman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2235 (Hagman) - Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Hagman:

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 respectfully opposes your AB 2235, which would allow a property owner to seek compensation for any substantial reduction in the value of their property resulting from the building, expansion, or operation of a plant, line, pipeline, or other facility by a public utility.

DRA recognizes the frustration of your Chino Hill constituents over the electrical transmission towers that were approved by the CPUC. Your AB 2235 seeks to provide relief to those homeowners. While this is well-intentioned, such relief should not be provided at the expense of other Californians throughout the State. We are in one of the worst economic downturns and it's not prudent to increase the monthly energy bills of non-Chino Hills residents to address those affected homeowners.

We also would like to note that as our energy needs grow or our utility infrastructure ages, improvements or expansions (hopefully cost-effectively) are necessary. These costs will likely be borne by utility customers. Customers should not also be responsible for providing compensation for decreased property values to ensure delivery of essential energy services.

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