



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

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April 9, 2013

Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 48 (Hill) - Support

Dear Senator Hill:

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 48, which would instill greater accountability and transparency of ratepayer-funded research, development and demonstration (RD&D) projects authorized by the CPUC. DRA specifically supports the provision in SB 48 which would require the CPUC to submit to the Legislature an annual report on all RD&D projects funded in whole or in part by California's electric and gas ratepayers. Such a comprehensive report would provide the information needed for the State to ensure that ratepayer funds are used effectively in support of research and innovation in the electric and gas sectors.

We look 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