



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

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March 28, 2013

Honorable Steven Bradford
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5136
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Kevin de León
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 217 (Bradford) – Support

Dear Assembly member Bradford:

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 AB 217, which would continue a program to encourage the installation of solar energy systems for low-income households from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2021, as specified.

DRA recognizes the cost of solar is going down and the environmental benefits and cost-savings that can be achieved with this technology. However, this technology still remains cost-prohibitive to many low-income customers who are the most in need of affordable monthly energy bills. AB 217 would advance the State's efforts to continue to make solar technology more available to those who may not otherwise be able to afford it. DRA supports ensuring that low-income customers continue to have access to technologies to lower their energy bills.

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