



## **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>

March 25, 2013

Honorable Roderick Wright  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 129 (Wright) - Support**

Dear Senator Wright:

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 129, as introduced, to extend the sunset date of the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) by 10-years, as specified. This program is currently funded by a telephone surcharge at 0.2 percent, not to exceed 0.5 percent, which is set to expire in January 1, 2014.

DRA strongly supports the State's goals of universal service, and SB 129 would ensure that deaf and disabled Californians continue to have access to specialized equipment and relay services to access the telecommunications network in order to participate in a broad spectrum of social and economic activities. 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