



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 21, 2013

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

RE: SB 291 (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 Senate Bill (SB) 291, which would require the CPUC to develop and implement procedures for issuance of safety citations by CPUC staff and for cited entities to appeal citations. This bill would provide more clarity regarding CPUC staff responsibility to ensure safe and reliable electric and gas services. For example, routine and diligent oversight by CPUC staff for minor safety violations would help to prevent major incidents.

I 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