



## ORA

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates  
California Public Utilities Commission*

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**JOSEPH P. COMO**  
Acting Director

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April 15, 2014

Honorable Richard Gordon  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1937 (Gordon) - Support**

Dear Assemblymember Gordon:

The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) is the independent consumer advocate within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). ORA's statutory mandate is to obtain the lowest possible rates for utility services consistent with safe and reliable service levels. ORA also advocates for customer and environmental protections in connection with utility service.

ORA supports your AB 1937, which would require intrastate natural gas pipeline operators to provide hospitals and K-12 schools with no less than 3 working days' notice prior to conducting non-emergency work on natural gas pipelines that are within 500 feet of their facilities. Your bill would also require a private gas utility to maintain sufficient recordkeeping of such notification, as specified.

ORA supports your efforts to improve public safety by allowing school and hospital administrators lead time to make preparations, if necessary, in advance of a non-emergency pipeline maintenance or testing. In the event a utility's pipeline work poses safety risks, administrators would be better prepared to make decisions to minimize exposure to potential hazards.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call ORA's Legislative Advisor Rebecca Lee, at (916) 327-1407 or me at (415) 703-2381.

Respectfully,

Joseph P. Como, Acting Director  
Office of Ratepayer Advocates

By  
Rebecca Lee  
Legislative Advisor