



ORA

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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June 11, 2014

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

RE: SB 900 (Hill) – Support

Dear Senator Hill,

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

ORA supports your SB 900, as amended on May 27th, which would require the CPUC to take all necessary and appropriate actions to assess and mitigate the impact of its decisions on customer, public, and employee safety. SB 900 would also require the CPUC to develop formal procedures to consider safety in rate case applications by utilities, and to prescribe standards on data collection and analysis of safety programs, as specified.

SB 900 would address various key concerns regarding utility safety oversight, and provides legislative standards governing safety risk analysis and safety performance of a utility's programs subject to review within a general rate case. As such it would hopefully bring about better kept records on safety, and more informed decision making to ensure the safe provision of energy utility services.

ORA looks forward to working with you on these important safety issues. 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