



ORA

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

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April 7, 2015

Honorable Bill Quirk
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 793 (Quirk) – Support if Amended

Dear Assemblymember Quirk:

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 reliable and safe service levels. ORA also advocates for customer and environmental protections in connection with utility service.

ORA supports your AB 793 if amended. AB 793 would direct the CPUC to support in-home energy management solutions to help utility customers better understand and manage their energy use. Your bill would also require electric utilities to develop and implement plans to educate residential and small business customers on how to use advanced meter data to better understand and control their energy use. AB 793 would also direct the CPUC to develop a rebate program for in-home management technologies for residential and small business customers, as specified.

ORA agrees with your goal to help customers better manage their energy use to save money, but are concerned that AB 793 would duplicate several CPUC-authorized programs that are already being implemented. Ratepayers currently fund a broad portfolio of energy efficiency rebates, including programs to promote the use of customer usage data to drive energy conservation and energy efficiency decisions. We suggest you amend AB 793 to require an integrated approach to promote in-home energy management solutions, which utilizes the CPUC's existing statewide education and outreach program such as Energy Upgrade California (EUC). This program has just been launched and includes education and outreach on a number of clean climate initiatives, e.g. distributed generation, electric vehicles, and demand response. EUC is intended to be a one-stop resource for energy and water management information. It also involves the participation of community based organizations throughout the state.

We look forward to working with you on amendments to set clear, achievable, and measurable standards to promote in-home energy savings.

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