



ORA

Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission

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JOSEPH P. COMO
Acting Director

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April 16, 2015

Honorable Lois Wolk
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 793 (Wolk) Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Senator Wolk:

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 respectfully opposes SB 793 unless amended. SB 793 would modify the CPUC's recently implemented Green Tariff Shared Renewable Program. The program, which was created by your SB 43, enables utility customers to participate in offsite renewable generation facilities and receive a bill credit. SB 793 would allow a participating customer to receive a predictable bill credit and bill charge for a period of up to 20 years.

ORA recognizes the benefits of allowing customers the choice to participate in the program for longer than one year at a time. However, the bill as currently written could have the unintended effect of advantaging one participating customer at the expense of another based on the time of program enrollment. This would create a disincentive for program participation, which in turn could negatively impact the success of the program, especially at this early stage of implementation.

Therefore, ORA proposes the following amendment on page 5, line 19-21:

~~A participating utility shall permit a participating customer to subscribe to the program and receive a predictable bill credit and bill charge for a period of up to 20 years.~~

We look forward to working with you on ensuring that the Green Tariff Shared Renewable Program delivers the intended benefits to ratepayers.

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