



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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Dana S. Appling, Director

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April 15, 2010

Honorable Felipe Fuentes
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2213 (Fuentes) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Fuentes:

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) is the independent consumer advocacy division of 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 AB 2213, which would make specified definitional changes to the LifeLine program created by the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act. These changes would provide eligible Lifeline individuals with the option to choose current technologies, such as wireless service, in lieu of traditional wireline technologies.

The LifeLine Telephone Program is an important universal service program that provides a discount on "basic residential telephone service" to approximately 2-million eligible low income individuals. AB 2213 would further the intent of the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act by expanding the LifeLine program to accommodate new technologies.

DRA supports your AB 2213 and was also proud to co-host a LifeLine forum in December 2009 with Assemblymember Fuentes that identified and prioritized a list of critical issues that must be addressed before expanding the program so that the low income consumers currently served remain protected.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call DRA's Legislative Director Matthew Marcus, at (916) 327-3455 or me at (415) 703-2544.

Respectfully,

Dana S. Appling, Director
Division of Ratepayer Advocates

The Voice of Consumers, Making a Difference!