



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 703-2544
Fax: (415) 703-2057

Dana S. Appling, Director

<http://dra.ca.gov>

April 12, 2010

Honorable Alex Padilla
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1476 (Padilla) - Support

Dear Chairman Padilla:

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) is the independent consumer advocacy arm 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 SB 1476, which would protect the personal identifiable information of electric and gas customer's that use advanced metering infrastructure.

Tracking energy usage is an important tool to make informed choices about usage, monitor costs and to conserve. Customers who track their energy usage may lower their monthly energy bills and help to protect the environment. SB 1476 would enable customers to continue to more easily manage their energy usage while protecting their privacy. By prohibiting the gathering and dissemination of customer's personal data without consent electric and gas customers will be less vulnerable to businesses collecting, selling or misusing this data.

DRA supports your bill's efforts to protect ratepayer's personal information and looks forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

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