



DRA

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California Public Utilities Commission*

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March 29, 2011

Honorable Jean Fuller
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3063
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 379 (Fuller) – Support if amended

Dear Senator Fuller:

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) is the independent consumer advocacy division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). DRA recognizes and supports technological advances and appreciates that many Californians have come to rely on new communications technologies to obtain information and for other critical social purposes. We support making these technologies affordable and ubiquitously available.

As such, DRA supports SB 379 if further amended. As amended on March 25, 2011, SB 379 would expand access to advanced telecommunications and information services to specified institutions, community-based organizations and governmental entities in recognition of their economic and societal impacts. The bill remains silent, however, on how these desirable efforts would be obtained and funded.

DRA believes California's universal service and broadband goals can be beneficially and cost-effectively expanded in the public interest and consistent with the intent of SB379, under judicious oversight by the CPUC. To that end, DRA recommends SB 379 be amended to classify current and future state of the art communication services subject to the CPUC's jurisdiction and regulatory oversight. DRA looks forward to working with the authors, the CPUC and other entities to help determine the best ways to proceed.

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) 703-2381

Respectfully,

Joseph P. Como, Acting Director
Division of Ratepayer Advocates

By
Matthew Marcus
Legislative Director