



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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JOSEPH P. COMO
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April 28, 2011

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

RE: SB 836 (Padilla) Support

Dear Chairman Padilla:

DRA (Division of Ratepayer Advocates) is an independent consumer advocacy Division at 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 836, which would require the CPUC to release to the Legislature as specified, the costs of all electricity procurement contracts for eligible renewable energy resources and all costs for utility-owned generation approved by the CPUC since January 1, 2003. Tracking the costs associated with the state's renewable energy policies is critical to making well informed decisions about these programs going forward, given the costs of these programs will directly affect consumer's electricity bills.

DRA also believes this bill's cost reporting requirements would encourage the CPUC and the investor-owned utilities to better adhere to the "least-cost and best-fit" approach to procuring renewable energy. This is especially important because the costs of new renewables have not yet passed into rates because many renewable contracts have not started delivering energy.

DRA supports this bill's efforts to provide transparency over renewable energy program costs 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,

Joseph P. Como, Acting Director
Division of Ratepayer Advocates

By
Matthew Marcus
Legislative Director