



ORA

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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June 21, 2016

Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1017 (Hill) – Support

Dear Senator Hill:

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 supports SB 1017, as amended on June, 20, 2016, which would require the CPUC to develop rules to address the over classification of investor-owned utility (IOU) information, as specified.

The new process established by this bill is necessary to ensure the public has access to critical safety, environmental and other emergency information. As a result, the public will be better informed on safety issues, and can use this information to make important choices, including helping to build a robust record decision makers rely on to make well-informed decisions on important safety issues and other matters.

The public deserves transparency in government processes and timely access to important health, safety, and environmental utility information. SB 1017 would improve public awareness by providing disclosure of important safety information.

ORA supports SB 1017, and looks forward to working with Senator Hill to have this bill signed into law. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call ORA's Interim Deputy Director, Matthew Marcus at 916-327-3455, or me at 415-703-2381.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Echols, Director
Office of Ratepayer Advocates