



## ORA

Office of Ratepayer Advocates  
California Public Utilities Commission

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March 27, 2018

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

**RE: SB 1205 (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 mission is to advocate for the lowest possible rates for customers of California's regulated utilities consistent with safe, reliable service levels, and the state's environmental goals.

ORA supports SB 1205, as introduced on February 15, 2018, which would require gas or electrical corporations to timely report to the CPUC, upon discovery, a potential safety-related violation of a CPUC law, order, or rule. This bill clarifies the intent of the existing utility safety reporting program that was enacted pursuant to SB 291 (Hill, Chapter 601, 2013), i.e., a gas and electric utility company is *required* to report certain safety-related violations, such as in the event of a significant safety threat, a system-wide impact, or instances involving fraud or deception.

SB 1205 helps advance the state's safety goals, which ORA strongly supports, in order to avoid future tragedies like the San Bruno pipeline explosion. Requiring electric and gas utilities to report to the CPUC on specific safety-related violations will help to hold utilities accountable and improve public safety.

ORA looks forward to working with you to implement this bill. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me at (415) 703-2381 or [elizabeth.echols@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:elizabeth.echols@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Echols  
Director