



ORA

Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission

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April 10, 2018

The Honorable Scott Weiner
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4070
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 822 (Weiner) – Support

Dear Senator Weiner:

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 822 (Weiner), as amended on March 13, 2018, which would codify key consumer protection provisions of the "net neutrality rules" for Californians that the Federal Communications Commission repealed in December 2017. The bill also would take many other steps to promote competition and consumer choice, which ORA strongly supports.

Net neutrality, also referred to as "open Internet," are principles designed to ensure that Internet service providers (ISPs) do not prevent Internet customers from having fair, competitive, equitable, and reliable access to all content available on the Internet. SB 822 promotes nondiscrimination policies that ultimately result in consumers having a broader range of access to affordable services and content.

ORA looks forward to working with you on this legislation. 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 at elizabeth.echols@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Echols
Director

