



## ORA

Office of Ratepayer Advocates  
California Public Utilities Commission

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April 10, 2018

The Honorable Bill Dodd  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 901 (Dodd) – Support**

Dear Senator Dodd:

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 901, as amended on March 22, 2018, which would require electric corporations, local publicly owned electric utilities and electrical cooperatives to prepare wildfire mitigation plans. These plans would include protocols to help determine when to deenergize a utility's power lines and deactivate reclosers, and an assessment of meteorological conditions and fire threat conditions.

SB 901's enhanced reporting requirements would help reduce the risk of electrical lines and infrastructure causing catastrophic wildfires. It also would help establish important ways for electric utilities to notify customers who may be impacted by not having essential electricity services as a result of a wildfire. This bill would help advance the state's safety goals, which ORA supports.

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](mailto:elizabeth.echols@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Echols  
Director

