



January 5, 2026

Honorable Jerry McNerney
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 327 (McNerney) – Support

Dear Senator McNerney,

The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission. We advocate for affordable, safe, and reliable utility services consistent with the state's climate and clean energy goals.

We support SB 327, as amended on January 5, 2025, which would, among other provisions, prohibit electric and gas investor-owned utilities (IOUs) from using ratepayer funds for certain political influence activities and advertising. Moreover, this bill would directly support and advance our mission to advocate for affordable, safe, and reliable utility services.

Californians face the highest energy rates in the country. Decisionmakers are working diligently to find ways to make monthly utility bills more affordable while continuing to advance the state's clean energy goals. This is done in part by gathering input and analysis from interested stakeholders – including our office, the IOUs, the public, and others – to support well-informed decisions.

The IOUs should not be allowed to use money collected from customers to alter the decision-making process and shape policy outcomes in ways that may not serve those customers' best interests. SB 327 would establish much-needed safeguards, transparency, and support to ensure that ratepayer dollars are not used appropriately – not for political influence or advertising that can unnecessarily increase customers' bills.

For these reasons we support SB 327.

Sincerely,

Linda Serizawa
Director, Public Advocates Office