April 8, 2013

Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Marty Block  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4090  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Toni Atkins  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 319  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 418 (Jackson) - Support

Dear Senator Jackson:

Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) is the independent consumer advocate within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). DRA’s statutory mandate is to obtain the lowest possible rates for utility services consistent with safe and reliable service levels. DRA also advocates for customer and environmental protections in connection with utility service.

DRA supports your SB 418, as amended on April 1, 2013, which would require an investor-owned utility that files for relicensing of a nuclear power plant at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, using ratepayer funding, to submit to the CPUC a detailed study on power plant operational needs and costs to assess the continued operation cost-effectiveness, as specified.

SB 418 would create a clearinghouse of necessary nuclear power plant cost information so that decision-makers and the public can be well-informed of the costs associated with reliability, disruptions and other important factors associated with a nuclear plant’s continued operation, prior to dedicating ratepayer money towards the federal relicensing process. DRA supports this bill’s proactive efforts to increase accountability and transparency over the nuclear power plant relicensing process and looks forward to working with you to ensure this bill is enacted into law.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call DRA’s Legislative Advisor Rebecca Tsai-Wei Lee, at (916) 327-1407 or me at (415) 703-2381.

Respectfully,

Joseph P. Como, Acting Director  
Division of Ratepayer Advocates

By  
Rebecca Lee  
Legislative Advisor