

Senate Resolution No. 15

Introduced by Senators Beall and Hill

Relative to the Division of Ratepayer Advocates

WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates represents residential and small business customers of electricity, natural gas, water, and communications investor-owned utilities for the purpose of obtaining the lowest possible rates for utility customers consistent with safe and reliable service; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates was created in the California Public Utilities Commission in 1984; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognized the Division of Ratepayer Advocates in statute in 1996 to give the division independence from the commission in order for the division to carry out its role in advocating on behalf of public utility customers; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Legislature expanded the charge of the Division of Ratepayer Advocates to represent the interests of customers in all significant proceedings and forums, rather than just proceedings at the commission; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates has 137 authorized positions, including economists, engineers, policy analysts, auditors, and accountants, with expertise in regulatory issues related to the electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications industries in California; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayers Advocates saved residential and small business customers nearly \$4 billion in 2012, which was nearly \$153 for every dollar allocated to the division; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, the Division of Ratepayer Advocates participated in 176 commission proceedings and filed more than 600 pleadings to aid the commission in developing the record from which commissioners formulated their final decisions; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates provides thoughtful analysis of pressing issues, including white papers on the effect of time-variant pricing on small electric service customers, energy

utility service disconnections, effective smart meter deployment, and a guide to California’s renewable energy policies and programs; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates achieves its statutory mission to represent and protect electricity, natural gas, water, and communications investor-owned utility customers in Sacramento by taking positions on bills, testifying in informational and bill hearings, providing technical legislative and constituent assistance, participating in working groups, and providing updates on the actions of the division and of the commission; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate hereby supports the Division of Ratepayer Advocates and the substantial contributions it has made to the residents of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor of California.

Senate Resolution No. 15 read and adopted by the Senate August 15, 2013.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate