

LETTERHEAD

DRAFT

June 12, 2013

Chair, Steven Bradford
Assembly Utilities and Commerce (c/o kelly.roberts@asm.ca.gov)
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (c/o matthew.montgomery@sen.ca.gov)
State Capitol, Rm. 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: SB 418 **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Jackson:

I (we if organization) fully support and thank you for offering fiscal transparency legislation to address foreseeable costs should a nuclear utility file for a license renewal. Southern California has suffered from poor decision-making and inadequate oversight by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has left billions of closing costs on the table for SCE and SDG&E, while foreseeable costs have not been analyzed for Diablo Canyon beyond its current license. For the second summer in a row Southern California is faced with possible power shortages and the ongoing costs of aging and earthquake prone nuclear plants in Central California.

Reliable energy is vital to maintain and grow California's economy, and for the well being of its residents. As we look towards the future—not just short term, but long term—sensible and prudent planning for our energy needs must be required, and your legislation will help achieve that goal.

The experiences in Japan, where natural forces have created severe and costly service disruptions, are a lesson those on the Pacific Rim cannot ignore. It would be imprudent to at the very least not consider and quantify foreseeable exigencies—and their attendant costs—for purposes of planning. This legislation also addresses our concerns regarding the costs of maintaining radioactive waste indefinitely on our coast, as well as potential upgrades to emergency planning infrastructure and services. These two issues are ones over which California ratepayers will have to assume at least part of the the fiscal responsibility in the wake of the federal government's non-action.

An application for relicensing of the nuclear plants seems an appropriate time for requiring this fiscal transparency. Many of the assumptions and forecasts upon which these units were originally based have become outdated. The first decade of the 21st Century has provided us with many events and situations that had previously been deemed “unthinkable” or “unimaginable.” As such, asking such questions as “what if?” and “how much?” for something as vital as our electrical infrastructure seems both prudent and practical. As such, I am pleased to support your efforts and SB 418.

Yours truly,

cc: Senator Marty Block (c/o Margaret.Pena@sen.ca.gov)
Assembly Member Toni Atkins (c/o gibran.maciel@asm.ca.gov)