



June 17, 2026

Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2065 (Petrie-Norris) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

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

We support AB 2065 (Petrie-Norris), which establishes strong ratepayer protection measures that help ensure CPUC-regulated utilities do not engage in inappropriate cost recovery and establishes financial penalties if they do. Existing law, regulations, and prior CPUC decisions establish clear rules governing which utility expenses ratepayers may be asked to fund. AB 2065 creates meaningful consequences for utilities attempting to recover costs in violation of those rules.

One of our Office's core functions is to review utility cost recovery requests to ensure that rates are appropriate and reasonable. In this work, we have uncovered numerous instances of utilities actively attempting to recover inappropriate costs from ratepayers. Utilities have attempted to use ratepayer funds for disallowed political activities, luxury items for employees, and costs they have already been reimbursed for. Current accountability measures are not strong enough to discourage utilities from pursuing inappropriate cost recovery that can unfairly increase rates for customers.

California's ratepayers are facing an affordability crisis. AB 2065 will provide the CPUC with the tools it needs to ensure that the state's regulated utilities are not compounding this crisis by shifting inappropriate costs onto ratepayers. For these reasons, we support AB 2065.

Sincerely,

Linda Serizawa
Director