



City Council

Mike Anderson, Mayor
Susan Candell, Vice Mayor
Steven Bliss, Council Member
Cameron Burks, Council Member
Teresa Gerringer, Council Member

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senator, 11th District
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 378 (Wiener) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the City of Lafayette, I am writing to express our support for SB 378, your measure that would place several requirements on electrical investor-owned utilities (IOUs) that decide to shut off power to reduce wildfire risk, including requiring IOUs to reimburse specified costs, creating penalties for shutting off power, and requiring IOUs to report specified information to the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and local governments.

Many cities, including the City of Lafayette, were severely impacted by last October's widespread utility- initiated power shutoffs, leaving millions of California residents without power. Throughout these events, local governments were unable to obtain details on the state of utility infrastructure within their communities, often did not receive accurate or timely notification, and accrued financial losses. The increasing frequency and duration of these events caused many state and local officials to advocate for oversight and regulation of California's electrical corporations to ensure that communities are not left in the dark.

This measure addresses these concerns through three main provisions. SB 378 requires electrical corporations to collect more data on their electrical equipment. This includes assessments of current and future fire risk, and investments made in infrastructure improvements. This measure also ensures local governments can recover costs accrued during a shutoff within two weeks of billing the electrical corporation for those costs. Lastly, SB 378 establishes a civil penalty to be levied if electrical corporations fail to act in a reasonable and prudent manner implementing and executing a de-energization event.

The City of Lafayette recognizes the important role utility-initiated power shutoffs play in ensuring public safety in response to the increasing severity and frequency of California's wildfires. However, due to the unprecedented size and scope of recent shutoffs, more parameters must be in place for electrical corporations to perform these shutoffs in this upcoming wildfire season. The City of Lafayette supports SB 378 as a way to ensure de-energization events are executed as a measure of last resort, and establishing both accountability and transparency for electrical corporations in carrying out these events.

It is for these reasons that the City of Lafayette is proud to support SB 378. If you have any questions, or need more information, about the City's position, please contact our City Manager, Niroop Srivatsa, at (925) 299-3206.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Anderson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Anderson
Mayor
City of Lafayette

cc: Senator Steve Glazer
Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan