



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 Steven Glazer
California State Senator, 7th District
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 801 (Glazer) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Glazer,

On behalf of the City of Lafayette, I am writing to express our support for SB 801, your measure that would establish new requirements on electrical corporations regarding deployment of backup electrical resources to customers receiving medical baseline allowance and living in a high fire-threat district.

Additionally, this bill requires an electrical corporation to develop its program to provide backup electrical resources in consultation with community disability rights groups or other local disability rights advocates.

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. Those power shutoffs affected the majority of the counties in the state and resulted in mass disruption to schools, traffic, communications, business, medical providers wages, transportation and, importantly, to persons with disabilities and older adults dependent on life-sustaining electrical services and telecommunications.

While these societal disruptions and costs imposed a massive impact on the population, for those with access and functional needs such as those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic conditions, frail elderly, those in institutions and others, the shutoffs can be life- threatening. The impacted needs for these populations include interruptions to electrical operated medical devices such as ventilators and wheelchairs. But the needs also include medication and food storage, maneuverability within housing with elevators or lifts, transportation, and a host of other challenges.

SB 801 ensures that medical baseline customers that rely on electrically powered medical devices, or need refrigerated medications, will not be put at risk during de-energization events.

It is for these reasons that the City of Lafayette is proud to support SB 801. 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 be 'Mike Anderson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Anderson
Mayor
City of Lafayette

cc: Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan