



DRA

*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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Dana S. Appling, Director

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April 9, 2007

Honorable Dean Florez
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 158 (Florez) Support

Dear Senator Florez:

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) supports your SB 158, which would provide mobile telephony customers, upon their request, with the choice to continue using their existing mobile phone with a new service provider upon completing their current service contract or completing the purchase of their mobile telephone.

Service providers are currently allowed to "lock" the handsets they sell to customers such that the handsets can only be used on a particular service provider's network. This is true even if the handset itself is technically capable of using other service provider's networks. This practice means that customers generally have to buy a new telephone when they switch service providers, even when their existing phone would be able to work on the new service provider's network.

In 2003, the Federal Communications Commission ruled that mobile telephony customers that switched service providers could choose to keep their existing telephone number instead of being forced to change phone numbers every time they changed service providers. SB 158 would augment the FCC's Order, guaranteeing mobile customers the option to use their existing telephone handset when switching service providers (as long as the handset is technically compatible with the particular technology used in the new service provider's network).

DRA supports your bill and looks forward to working with you to pass this important pro-consumer legislation.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call Matthew Marcus our Legislative Director at (916) 327-3455 or me at (415) 703-2544.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Appling, Director
Division of Ratepayer Advocates