

Dear House Energy Committee,

My family is one of many VT families who has maintained our "dumb meter." Our reasons are personal, we do not feel that there is enough evidence that the new smart meters are safe, that they do not violate privacy, and are also unnecessary. I realize that the energy companies we defend the universal use of smart meters as perfectly safe, but the fact is they simply haven't been studied. Cell phone towers have also long been "perfectly safe" and we are just now coming to a place of openness where we can discuss honestly that living within a certain distance of them has real health consequences.

My main concern is that there seems to be conversations about needing to pay to maintain a dumb meter. This is not equitable. People with legitimate health concerns should not be charged extra to protect their family. For a state that seems to be hyper focused on equity this seems out of step. People should not have to make decisions around health based on whether they can afford it or not.

I ask that you reconsider this new fee and maintain the original smart meter law that allows Vermonters to opt out and not be charged.

Thank you,

Carrie Randolph
Kempton & Carrie Randolph
Hooker Mountain Farm Distillery
Cabot, Vermont
hookermountainfarm.com