

Dear Members of the House Energy Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any amendments to S.213 that would allow electric utilities to charge Vermonters for opting out of smart meter installations.

Our current "no-charge, no-questions" opt-out law is a vital protection for the health, privacy, and financial well-being of our citizens. Introducing a fee for opting out transforms a fundamental right into a "pay-to-play" system. This is a significant equity issue: those who financially struggle or have legitimate health concerns regarding RF radiation should not be forced to choose between their budget and their physical well-being.

Furthermore, I urge the committee to reject the inclusion of "fact-finding" language that dismisses the health risks associated with this technology. Vermonters deserve the right to say "no" to data-collecting devices on their homes without being penalized.

Please preserve the existing, equitable opt-out protections and reject any proposals that would allow utilities to charge for the refusal of smart meters.

Sincerely,

Dan Chahine

Shelburne, VT