

Hello Committee Members.

Smart meters are unhealthy, and we shouldn't need to pay to opt out of having one.

My partner was injured in another state when a smart meter went on the house. We fought to have the meter removed, and it was downgraded six weeks later to a less intensive transmitting meter - with an additional fee placed. We did everything we could to reduce the effects: we bought a faraday cage to go over the smart meter and a blocking panel inside the house to limit the RF, but the utility company removed and disposed of the faraday cage when we were away from the house one day. Several months later, the utility company returned to our property and re-installed the high intensity smart meter without our consent or knowledge, despite having documentation regarding my partner's injury and our paying the opt out fee. We had to leave the home we loved and move to Vermont so my partner could attempt to regain her health.

We bought a house away from others and one with the utility pole off the house, limit technology to wired only, and use blocking material and faraday cages where possible. Now we're facing the same challenges in Vermont as what injured her in another state. Where can we go that's safe, and why should we need to go anywhere?

When did someone else's convenience, especially a business, take precedence over another person's health? Thankfully, laws changed about smoking and second-hand smoke years ago because it was finally acknowledged that second-hand smoke was a deadly pollutant that was being inflicted on innocent nonsmokers. No nonsmoker was forced to pay to opt out of being near smokers, so why should this be any different? Microwave radiation spewing from telecom devices is even worse, and citizens shouldn't have to pay to avoid being irradiated.

Sincerely,

Lori Church