

Dear Chair James and Committee members;

It has been over a decade since Vermont electric companies sought to deploy Smart Meters or Advanced Metering Infrastructure throughout the state. The reasons why a substantial minority opposed this deployment and fought for a no fee opt-out are as justified today, if not more so, with environmental radiation exposures on the increase.

During initial hearings, we asked many experts to testify concerning the known health effects, cyber-security/privacy issues, exorbitant billing and fire hazards inherent to smart meters and the mesh network. We know our legislators found their testimony compelling and so established a no-fee opt-out, no questions asked. It is worthwhile to reiterate these concerns.

**Health Effects:** Wireless smart meters emit up to 20,000 RF pulses of microwave radiation per day, all day and night both inside and outside the home. The closer you are to the meter, the higher the levels of radiation. Scientific studies have found that this pulsed radiation is particularly harmful.

Those exposed to wireless meters have reported a number of health impacts, including heart and circulatory issues, disrupted sleep, fatigue, migraines, memory loss, depression, etc..

**Billing Errors:** Smart meters have been associated with sharp increases in electric bills, resulting in several class action lawsuits.

**Harmful Interference:** Smart meters are reported to interfere with household electrical appliances, computers, medical devices (i.e. pacemakers) and home security systems, causing them to malfunction.

**Fire/Safety Risks:** Smart meters are built with plastic components, many have melted/exploded and led to an increase in fires.

**Security Threats:** Wireless systems are notoriously insecure and can easily be hacked into. Hackers can access private information, determine by energy usage which homes are unoccupied, or even interfere with the delivery of electricity. Many security experts, including former CIA Director James Woolsey, warn that smart meters are a risk to the national electric grid.

It is an established fact that in this age many individuals have developed EHS (electromagnetic hypersensitivity) and cannot live with or near exposure to RFR (radiofrequency radiation) emitting devices. It is unfair to financially scapegoat/penalize those, who, for health reasons, must avoid these exposures. Many EHS individuals have moved to Vermont precisely because a no-fee opt-out is established law. In fact, all people are subject to DNA cell stress and degradation in

response to increased RFR exposures, according to Martin Blank, PhD, Columbia University.

Please respect and safeguard the small minority to whom RFR exposure is anathema. Please respect those who value privacy at all levels in a world that increasingly seeks to monetize our data at every turn.

S.213 should have no bearing on our established no fee smart meter opt-out; rather, our no fee smart meter opt-out should remain the precedent for established law concerning any and all potential RFR transmitting devices.

Sincerely,

Martine Victor, Manchester