

Dear Members of House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee:

It's infuriating that this committee of current lawmakers, through ignorance, are undoing the hardwon passage of Act 170 in 2012. Vermont was the first state to establish a no fee opt-out, acknowledging the known dangers of AMI technology. David O. Carpenter, professor of environmental health sciences at University of Albany, SUNY; Blake Levitt, award winning journalist and researcher specializing in the biological effects of non-ionizing radiation; Martin Blank, former research scientist at Columbia University, specializing in non-ionizing EMR on DNA; Camilla Rees and others testified, including experts on data mining and privacy. Senator Bob Hartwell (D- Bennington), creator of Act 170, suggested it should've been offered as an "opt-in" bill, as most constituents, like this committee, are uneducated concerning AMI technology drawbacks affecting health, privacy, security and over-billing. Opting-in would require informed consent. A healthy, compassionate society is defined by its treatment of the vulnerable and powerless. To retroactively apply a "one size fits all" mentality to a nuanced and complex subject, which happens to be established law, demonstrates a cavalier neglect and lack of discernment. Please preserve our no-fee opt-out, the culmination of hard work by our informed lawmakers in 2012.

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