

Dear House Committee Members on Energy and Digital Infrastructure,

My husband and I are Lyndon Electric Department customers, who requested to opt out of having a smart meter without additional charge. It is our right to opt out per Vermont Statute Title 30: Public Service Chapter 077: Gas and Electric Companies §28.11. Smart meters; customer rights: reports. I sent written notice to the Lyndon Electric Department, but did not specify that it is due to health reasons, because I consider divulging that, to be personal and private information. I'm sure there are other Vermont residents who feel the same way.

I understand that your committee is taking testimony from electric companies as well as from water companies to charge customers, who opt out of having a smart meter installed on their home. If Bill S.213 is passed into law, my husband and I could be charged a fee.

*" (2) allows a user to choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed, 7 provided that the public water system may charge the user for the cost of the 8 alternative meter and any additional service charge required for the public 9 water system to operate the alternative meter"*

I have electromagnetic hypersensitivity. We chose to live in a rural area to avoid radio frequencies, do not own a smart phone or have any other "smart" devices in the home. The wi-fi is shut off when not in use. It is regarded as discriminatory to charge people more for an essential service, such as in education for example, simply because it costs more to provide them with this service. Utility companies would be engaging in discrimination. Passing S.213 into law would be condoning discrimination.

No one should be discriminated against for any reason- even opting out of having a smart meter. Because I have an impairment, I need treatment, which isn't covered by my health insurance. We should not have to suffer further financial hardship due to a discriminatory law.

Sincerely,

Mary Hauser

Newark