



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

CHARTERED 1763

P.O. BOX 88 5420 SHELBURNE ROAD SHELBURNE, VT 05482

Clerk/Treasurer FAX Number	Town Manager	Zoning & Planning	Assessor	Recreation
(802) 985-5116 (802) 985-9550	(802) 985-5111	(802) 985-5118	(802) 985-5115	(802) 985-5110

Representative Kathleen James
House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure
115 State St
Montpelier Vt, 05633

RE: Written Testimony on Bill S.213

Dear Representative James and House Committee Members

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to testify on the matter of Bill S.213 on April 14th. I am submitting the following as a written summary of my testimony.

Smart Metering and/or Automated Metering Infrastructure are very generic definitions for a great number of technologies that assist utility systems in the simple yet crucial task of transmitting usage data from the individual user back to the utility. For instance, there are many remote read technologies i.e.

- Radio
- Cellular
- Power Line Communication (PLC)
- Wi-Fi (Amazon Sidewalk Protocol)

All these technologies have the capability to be a part of Automated Metering Infrastructure yet by themselves are not. These technologies serve many purposes including but not limited to.

- Increased Efficiency and Accuracy of readings.
- Reducing Staff Hours dedicated to meter reading.
Shelburne alone had a savings of roughly 1,000 man hours per year.
- Allows for increased reading intervals.
This increases data points allowing for better water loss tracking.

Opt out protocols are already in place at the municipal level. If they are legislated at the state level with open-ended language, then the municipalities' hands will be tied and that could directly affect the efficiency and financial gains of having the technology.

Cybersecurity regarding meter reading has limited impact and/or risk. The data transmitted is minimal for multiple reasons, the main being conserving battery life. The data transmitted is a serial number and an 8-digit number that contains the reading, the account data stays on the servers and is only connected with the readings after it is imported. Were the data to be intercepted it would have no meaning to the recipient were it not already end to end encrypted.

In conclusion the technologies being instituted are essential for the efficient and accurate reading of water usage. The metrics for communicating concerns and applying resolutions are already in place at the municipal level. Passing this legislation will lump multiple unique technologies and applications under a single regulatory standard and by its very existence generate concerns in local communities its institution is trying to avoid. In my opinion this bill is not only unnecessary but the unintended consequences of passing it will far outweigh the potential benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Sherman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bart Sherman
Superintendent
Shelburne Water Department