

My name is Katherine Katzin, and I am writing to urge the Committee to amend HB 864 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans so that section 7-227 expressly prohibits any entity, whether the public service commission, a utility provider, or the executive branch, from preventing any ratepayer from opting out of a smart meter on their residence, without fee or penalty.

According to the Environmental Health Trust, “Most smart meters emit very strong pulses of RFR (radiofrequency radiation) twenty-four hours a day. Contrary to claims made by utility providers that the exposure is “low,” many smart meters continuously emit RFR in millisecond blasts. These short bursts of radiation can be very powerful. Wireless smart meters typically produce very short high levels of pulsed RF/microwaves. They emit these millisecond-long RF bursts on average 9,600 times a day with a maximum of 190,000 daily transmissions and a peak level emission two and a half times higher than the stated safety signal.”

[\(https://ehtrust.org/smartmeters-health-and-safety-faqs/\)](https://ehtrust.org/smartmeters-health-and-safety-faqs/)

According to Dr. David O. Carpenter, M.D. Director, Institute for Health and the Environment University at Albany; Dr. Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Oncology, University Hospital Orebro, Sweden; and Dr. Magda Havas, BSc, PhD, Environmental & Resource Studies Trent University, “Smart meters and cell phones occupy similar frequency bands of the electromagnetic spectrum, meaning that cell phone research directly applies to smart meter RFR.” However, as they point out, “an individual can choose whether or not to use a cell phone and for what period of time. When smart meters are placed on a home the occupants have no option but to be continuously exposed to RFR.”

<https://smartmeterharm.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/florida-dr-david-carpenter-to-fl-ps-c-2017.pdf>

According to the Environmental Health Trust, “Peer reviewed published studies show the adverse biological effects of pulsed electromagnetic radiation, such as RFR, on the body at emissions levels far below FCC limits.” These studies can be found at the [BioInitiative Report](#), [JustProveIt.net](#), and Environmental Health Trust.

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Soon after smart meters were installed, residents have reported symptoms including “sleep disturbances, rashes, hyperactivity, changes in children’s behavior, high blood pressure, endocrine problems, thyroid problems, facial flushing, nausea, flu-like symptoms, body pain, leg cramps, cardiac symptoms, heart palpitations, heart arrhythmias, dizziness, fatigue, physical weakness, difficulty concentrating, memory

loss, learning problems, ringing in the ears, headaches, and more.”
(<https://ehtrust.org/smartmeters-health-and-safety-faqs/>)

Additionally, smart meters can malfunction by allowing surges to flow into buildings that can burn and destroy appliances and electronics. Smart meters can also explode and cause fires. (“[Overview: Fire and Electrical Hazards from ‘Smart’, Wireless, PLC, and Digital Utility Meters](#)”)

Many localities have no fees for opting out including Indiana, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Los Angeles, California, New York/Central Hudson. North Carolina has no fee, if the opt-out is for health reasons. Texas offers low-income fee option.

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