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Threatt, Linnetta

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From: Claire Viadro <viadro@mindspring.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 11:17 PM
To: Statements
Subject: Docket E-100 Sub 147, E-7 Sub 1115 and E-7 Sub 1146

APR 25 2018

**Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission**

Chairman Finley and NCUC public staff,

I am a public health professional writing to urge the NCUC to abide by its legal duty to "secure for the people of the State an efficient and economic system of public utilities." Abundant evidence is emerging from other states that smart meters are an unwise investment and will be disastrous for the public interest in North Carolina.

The scientific literature shows that the electromagnetic frequencies produced by smart meters are a growing health threat with numerous documented health risks. Analog meters are the only type of meter that minimizes health risks and does not violate consumers' privacy. I am strongly in favor of a 12-month Equal Pay Program (EPP), which would limit the need for a monthly truck roll to read the meter. I am strongly opposed to unjust and punitively high opt-out fees. I believe that fees should not exceed \$5 per month.

In New Mexico, the Public Regulation Commission just denied the Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM's) application to use smart meters. The Commission stated that PNM's plan failed to "provide a net public benefit" and "does not promote the public interest." Notably, the Commission ruled that PNM did not demonstrate that smart meters would save money or enhance energy efficiency, did not specify how it would protect customers' data privacy or address cybersecurity issues, and failed to evaluate alternatives or respond adequately to public objections. Most importantly, the Commission extensively reviewed evidence about health effects and concluded that "customers who have strong feelings about the health effects of the meters should be allowed to protect their stated health concerns without a prohibitively high cost" and noting that technologies that minimize health risks are available. Analog meters achieve these important goals.

North Carolinians need the help of the North Carolina Utilities Commission to protect their health and privacy. Analog meters without punitive opt-out fees must be an option.

Sincerely,

Claire Viadro, MPH, PhD
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