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From: Mary Anne Tierney <hopefulmat@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 8:33 PM
To: Finley, Ed; tim.dodge@psncuc.nc.gov; Statements
Subject: opposition to tariffs for smart meter opt out program

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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Edward S. Finley, Jr., Chairman
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

Subject: DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 141 - Oppose Smart Meter Opt-Out Tariffs

Dear Chairman Finley:

I am writing to the NC Utility Commission today to express my opposition to tariffs on opting out of smart meters. I am a registered nurse and former public health educator. I also have an impairment called electro-hypersensitivity (EHS). I am the co-facilitator of a support group for individuals afflicted with EHS. I can assure you that people with compromised health, and therefore limited employment options, are among the subset of population for whom tariffs pose the greatest financial hardship.

The smart meter that sits outside of my kitchen window was installed without my permission, despite it being a home that my husband and I own. We moved out of the city of Asheville to rural Fairview to avoid the wireless devices of neighbors living in close proximity. When we arrived here, there was a time-of-use meter that was analogue. Without my permission, Duke replaced the analogue meter with a smart meter. The radio-frequency radiation (RFR) it emits has been measured by a certified building biologist; it throws spikes of radiation all over the inside of the house. These spikes of radiation have caused my health challenges to continue, despite the enormous effort to move and relocate. I have spent at least \$300 attempting to shield the meter, and yet the spikes of radiation continue to enter our home.

I have called Duke Energy's staff at least 15 times in the past 5 months, and there is no response. They tell me they can't help me. They have no options for me until there is an opt-out program. I will not be able to afford the opt-out charges if that are similar to what Duke charges in Ohio.

I urge you to insure that no tariff is charged to me or any other resident of NC who seeks to be free from the unauthorized use of RFR in our private homes. The North Carolina Utilities Commission should require removal of all wireless components of all utility meters.

As the BioInitiative Report documents, there are thousands of peer-reviewed scientific studies that show significant health effects from the RFR emits from smart meters and all other wireless devices. Hiding behind the 19-year old, outdated FCC guidelines for RFR only highlights how unresponsive the practices of the NC Utility Commission and Duke Energy have become. It is time to do the right thing, to protect the residents of NC, rather than cave to the economic pressure of the wireless and utility industries. See www.BioInitiative.org

There are now 217 scientists worldwide specializing in RFR who have appealed to the United Nations and the World Health Organization to set safety standards to protect the public health from the many serious, long-term effects of wireless devices, including smart meters. The signers of the Appeal state that emission guidelines are not protective of human health, that we are on the verge of "an emerging public health crisis," leading to premature death and damage to our DNA. See their statement at EMFScientist.org

I ask you sincerely: Please end the smart meter program in NC! And if it continues, please assure that those who either need to or wish to opt out are not penalized with a tariff.

Gratefully,
Mary Anne Tierney, RN, MPH

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