



Control Number: 40190



Item Number: 12

Addendum StartPage: 0

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 10, 2012

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Donna L. Nelson, Chairman
1701 N. Congress Avenue
PO Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

Chairman Nelson:

In the 79th legislative session, I authored HB 2129 that requires electric utility providers to consider establishing certain consumer option programs that encourage the reduction of air contaminant emissions. This bill was later amended by the Senate to require the PUC to develop a plan for deployment of smart meter data networks. However, the bill did not create a mandate for smart meter installation. I am greatly concerned that certain providers are acting beyond the purview of HB 2129 by forcing smart meters on customers. This was not the intent of the legislation.

It was always my understanding that customers would have a choice in whether to implement this technology at their homes. So far, this has not been the case in my district, and my constituents are being forced to install and pay for these advanced meters.

I urge the commission to correct this oversight by providing a simple, customer-friendly process for opting-out of the advanced metering technology. I understand that the commission stated an intent to open a project to consider this issue at the February 10, 2012 Open Meeting. I ask that any necessary rule changes be adopted expeditiously to effectuate my intent, so that additional legislative action is not required. I stand committed to ensuring that this issue is addressed.

I appreciate your hard work and dedication to the State of Texas and I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen
State Representative, District 25



DISTRICT 25 BRAZORIA (PART)

12