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MAINE PUBLIC
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February 2, 2011

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Karen Geraghty
Administration Director
Maine Public Utilities Commission
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0018

Docket #2010-345

Dear Ms. Geraghty,

I am writing to you as a family physician practicing in the town of Scarborough, the Town of Scarborough's Local Health Officer and as a concerned citizen.

I have been treating one of my patients that I believe has suffered some deleterious effects of Smart Meter installation in her community of South Portland. On two occasions, her physical symptoms worsened when in her own home. She has recovered after being hospitalized and returning to her daughter's home. Her neighborhood in South Portland had installation of Smart Meters prior to the onset of her symptoms. She is fearful and unwilling to return to her home. Furthermore, my patient, her daughter and I are concerned that Smart Meters may be installed around and at her current safe haven in Scarborough.

When I offer my concerns regarding the use of Smart Meters in the State of Maine it is not out of fear of new technology. As I rely on new technology on a daily basis. It is out of concern of new technology without a proven safety record. This concern is intensified by a lack of proffered plans by CMP to monitor the health and safety of these devices once installed. I am particularly concerned about those citizens at the extremes of age and those who rely on implantable medical devices to maintain their health.

In the public sessions held in Scarborough, I heard from many citizens who are physically sensitive to non-ionizing radiofrequencies. Further investigation regarding health effects of this technology must be mandated from our regulatory bodies as this technology is rolled out.

In the meantime, Central Maine Power provides its customers with no options in the current method of implementation of Smart Meters. We in America hold our personal liberties dear. One such liberty is to create a personal living space that is safe, healthy and free from potentially dangerous exposures. I would expect the same for my patient who has required a hospitalization for her symptoms.

Central Maine Power is our only electricity supplier locally. If there was an alternative electricity provider, this letter would not be as urgent. I would suggest switching to the new carrier. However, we do not have that choice here in Maine. As a result of not having this option, Central Maine Power must provide its customer with an opt-out provision with regard to Smart Meter installation.

In tandem to providing an opt-out process, Central Maine Power should be required to record health complaints that are raised after the installation in our communities and have a method to analyze and assess the risk to this new technology in our communities.

Thank you for your time in considering this important health concern.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Kirsch M.D.