

Talking Points for Phone Calls to New York Legislators

Digital Utility Meter Opt-Out Bill

Hello, I'm calling about (Senate bill S5632A or Assembly bill A9148), the Digital Utility Meter Opt-Out bill.

My name is _____. I am (a resident of) (on the board of) (a member of...) _____ . It is essential that (my rights) (the rights of our members) and all New Yorkers have the protection of this legislation. Utility meter choice is offered in other states and by many utilities and it is unfair that most New Yorkers do not have this option.

We are hoping (Senator/Assembly member) _____ will join us in protecting all the people of New York by supporting this important legislation.

My primary concern is.....

Health

- Digital Utility Meters emit strong bursts of radiation. Only by averaging the bursts of radiation over time do the meters meet FCC human exposure guidelines.
- Thousands of independent, non-industry-funded, government and peer-reviewed scientific studies and military documents show that exposure to RF radiation emitted by digital utility meters can cause biological harm. The National Toxicology Program of the National Institutes of Health found "clear evidence" of increased cancer risk and DNA damage from exposure.
- No federal agency has ever classified digital utility meters as "safe." The FDA has never measured, tested or established exposure standards for digital meters, despite its authority over all electronic devices that emit radiation, including the switch-mode power supply used in all digital meters.
- A growing number of individuals are experiencing and reporting physical harm from exposure to radiation from digital meters, including tinnitus, headaches, dizziness, nausea, heart irregularities, insomnia, brain fog and other symptoms.
- Analog meters do not transmit radiation and do not cause physical harm.

Privacy

- Digital utility meters collect and transmit information that can be used to identify personal habits, schedules, and preferences. Americans have a constitutional right to privacy.
- There are no state-wide regulations that protect this data. Utilities may sell it, without consumer consent. Data breaches are common, and there are no advanced security measures in place, that protect this highly valuable data.
- Analog meters eliminate any threat of data breaches or surveillance.

Security

- Wireless transmissions can be easily hacked, permitting unauthorized persons to access the same personal information collected by the utility.

- This information can be used to determine if occupants are home, away from home during the day, or on vacation.
- Hacking wireless communications leaves no evidence. No one will know if their personal information has been stolen.
- Analog meters eliminate any threat of security breaches.

Safety

- Digital utility meters lack surge arresters and circuit breakers, creating a hazard to home wiring and increasing the risk of fire in the home. Digital meters that have exploded or caught fire have triggered lawsuits by hundreds of utility customers in California and Michigan.

- Tens of thousands of digital utility meters have been recalled by utility companies for faulty performance or increased risk of explosions and fires.

- There is no evidence that digital utility meters have ever been tested for safety in real-life situations, where they are fully connected to utility wiring and homeowner's electric circuit panels.

Conclusion

I'm hoping that (Senator/Assembly member) _____ will join us in supporting (Senate bill S5632A or Assembly bill A9148A).

Thank you.

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NOTE: PLEASE AVOID making derogatory statements about government agencies, utilities or individuals, or repeating conspiracy theories. This will not persuade legislators to support the legislation. Our arguments are strong and our facts are irrefutable.