

WHEREAS, DTE is replacing [or has replaced] existing utility meters with smart (a.k.a., advanced or AMI) meters; and

WHEREAS, citizens of this community have expressed many concerns about this replacement, including concerns about the health effects of radiofrequency and the voltage transients and harmonics (line noise) generated by smart meters; concerns about privacy and hacking; concerns about fire safety and fire hazards; concern about impending time-of-use rates and resultant increases in electric bills; concerns about remote shut-off; and

WHEREAS, our [city/county/township] has worked tirelessly to attract positive investments while rejecting those that put our health, environment, and quality of life at risk; and

WHEREAS, the electromagnetic frequencies emitted and generated by these meters have been shown by thousands of scientific studies since the 1930s to harm biological systems and therefore may pose a serious threat to the health of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, smart meters have caused fires, explosions, and meltdowns and short-circuiting and malfunction of appliances and circuit panels, including in Michigan, resulting in death and/or injury and/or property damage, and placing an unprecedented safety and monetary risk upon the utility's customers; and

WHEREAS, it is more prudent to remain with a safe, functional, and proven technology than to risk the health and well-being of our citizens and their property on metering equipment that does not provide a substantial benefit; and

WHEREAS, the utility charges the customer \$67.20 to have installed the so-called "opt-out" or "non-transmitting" smart meter, yet the cost of leaving in place an existing analog meter is \$0.00, thus creating an unnecessary charge on the customer; and

WHEREAS, some persons on fixed incomes are unable to afford the opt-out fees; and

WHEREAS, there is no benefit to the utility or the customer from the non-transmitting smart meter, and according to the utility, the non-transmitting smart meter performs no functions not already performed by the analog meter; and

WHEREAS, many customers have reported negative health effects from the non-transmitting smart meter; and

WHEREAS, customers with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act may not be charged for accommodation of their disability; and

WHEREAS, both the on-transmitting smart meter and the analog meter accurately measure electricity usage, and whereas both must be read by a meter reader, therefore making them indistinguishable for purposes of metering customer electrical usage; and

WHEREAS, smart meters have not been mandated by the federal or state government; and

WHEREAS, the very foundation of consumer protection laws is violated by the utilities compelling their customers to pay for something the customers did not request and that many customers have asked to have removed; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1–3 percent of the population is so severely affected by the electromagnetic frequencies generated by these meters, both within their home and outside it, that they become ill; that some of these people become unable to work; that some become unable to participate in normal and necessary activities such as shopping for food or visiting the doctor, as well as pleasurable activities such as visiting friends in their homes or going to a movie theater; that some become unable to participate in the rights and duties of citizenship, such as speaking at council meetings; and

WHEREAS, our city is committed to providing equal opportunity and quality of life for all, and to removing full barriers to participation in public life on the basis of disability;

WHEREAS, currently House Bill 4315 and Senate Bill 819 are pending in committees of the Michigan Legislature that would impact on some of the many concerns expressed by our community's citizens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the [City of ----] stands with its citizens in complete opposition to the installation of smart meters because of their effects on health, privacy, and safety; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [City of ----] urges DTE to permit those customers who do not wish to have a smart meter on their home, whether or not it is transmitting, to have an analog meter to measure their electrical usage, and that an analog option be offered in perpetuity to all DTE customers; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [City of ----] urges DTE, the MPSC, and the state legislature to permit those customers who opt out to do so without penalty; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the \_\_\_ City Council urges the chairs and members of the State House and Senate Energy and Technology Committees to move HB 4315 and SB 819 to the full legislature, through their Chairs and members, for active debate, deliberation, and vote, and it further urges those committees and the legislature to amend the bills so that they require that customers needing or wanting an analog meter are allowed to have an analog meter to measure their electrical usage.