

Michigan State Legislators' Responses to Letters from Constituents Regarding DTE Smart Meters

Most legislators are misinformed or uncaring regarding the smart meters. Read their responses to know better what you need to address in you letters. Calling your legislator, and, especially, meeting them in person is important!

Legislator responses are in alphabetical order by legislator's last name.

Gretchen Driskell

From: Rep. Gretchen Driskell (District 52) [mailto:GretchenDriskell@house.mi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 11:48 AM

To: _____

Subject: FW: Urgent- DTE Now Forcefully Installing Smart Meters

Thank you for contacting my office about your concerns regarding DTE's installation of "Smart Meters". On July 3, 2013, the Michigan Public Service Commission, which regulates utilities operating in the state, ordered that consumers be allowed to opt out of this program. My office contacted DTE to ask how best to do that. The information provided to us is included in bold below.

To enroll in the Opt Out Program, customers should call [800-477-4747](tel:800-477-4747) to speak with a customer representative.

The DTEEnergy.com website includes details on both the AMI program and opt out and may be accessed as follows:

- **DTEEnergy.com**
- o **Products/Programs**
- § **SmartCurrents**
- **Advanced Metering**

I appreciate the time you took to contact my office. Your thoughts are very important to me as I consider and vote on legislation. I hope I can continue to objectively represent your interests in the Lansing.

Sincerely,

State Representative Gretchen Driskell

House District 52

[\(855\) 627-5052](tel:8556275052) - toll free phone

Keep Informed, Sign up for my legislative updates: <http://052.housedems.com/>

Kurt Heise—co-sponsor of HB 4315

From: Rep. Kurt Heise

Sent: ___2103

To:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the ongoing installation of Smart Meters in Northville, Plymouth, and Canton. There are many concerns being raised about this practice, both from a technical/safety standpoint and a privacy/data gathering perspective. I share some, but not all, of these concerns; my primary issue is with data gathering and how that information can be used by utilities and the government, and what information should be confidential and privileged.

To that end, I am a co-sponsor of House Bill 4315, introduced by Rep. Tom McMillin. The bill was filed on February 26, 2013 and is currently before the House Energy and Technology Committee, Chaired by Rep. Aric Nesbitt. At this time, Rep. Nesbitt has not taken testimony or any other action on the bill. I am in continuous contact with Rep. McMillin so we can get a hearing on this important legislation that should address many of our concerns. I also co-sponsored the same bill in the last legislative session, starting in 2011.

[I would also urge you to contact your appropriate city and township leaders on this issue, and request that they contact Rep. Nesbitt to move on HB 4315. I also request that you bring this issue to the attention of United States Rep. Kerry Bentivolio and our United States Senators.](#)

Thank you for your thoughts and comments; I am taking action on this issue, and have been for some time.

Kurt L. Heise

State Representative
20th District
699 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

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517-373-3816

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Toll Free: 1-855-REP-KURT

Jeff Irwin—Letter 1

From: Rep. Jeff Irwin <district053@house.mi.gov>;

To:

Subject: Thank you for contacting me about smart

Sent: -Sept ___ 2013

Dear ___,

Thank you for contacting my office with your concerns about the installation of advanced (“smart”) electrical meters. These meters transmit information wirelessly back to the utility, and will improve outage detection and grid stability. I am aware that some of my constituents are strongly opposed to

having these meters installed for a variety of reasons. In response to some of these concerns, I have co-sponsored House Bill 4728 to prohibit utilities from disclosing metering information to third parties or transmitting it in insecure ways.

If you do not want a transmitting meter, you do not have to have one. The Michigan Public Service Commission has approved a plan whereby electricity customers can opt out of having a transmitting smart meter, either by retaining their old meters or by having the communications capabilities of their smart meters disabled. Customers who opt out would pay a one-time fee and also a monthly fee to cover the cost of sending out a meter reader. Since the meter reader would be making a trip to a specific house, not checking every house on the street, the cost per house that opts out is relatively high. The Michigan Public Service Commission has approved a monthly fee of \$10, down from the \$15 proposed by the utility.

I have done considerable reading on this topic and have attended community events where residents explained their concerns. So far, I have not yet seen convincing evidence that Smart Meters cause health problems. From what I have researched, the radiation dose from the radio signal is brief (a few seconds a day) and well below the magnitude of similar signals from cell phones, wireless routers and other EM sources ubiquitous in our environment. Although I personally do not see enough reason to oppose Smart Meters at this time, I have always supported the rights of citizens like yourself to opt out of having them installed in their homes.

Rep. Irwin says he has done "considerable reading," yet he doesn't even know that the meters are transmitting 24/7.

Thank you again for writing to me about this issue. If you would like to keep up to date with what I'm working on in Lansing, please email me at jeffirwin@house.mi.gov to subscribe to my free e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Irwin

Jeff Irwin—Letter 2

September ---, 2013

Dear _____,

Thank you for contacting your legislators with your concerns about the installation of advanced ("smart") electrical meters. Rep. Aric Nesbitt, the chair of the House Energy and Technology Committee forwarded your email to me because I represent your district. I am aware that some of my constituents are strongly opposed to having these meters installed for a variety of reasons. In response to some of these concerns, I have co-sponsored House Bill 4728 to prohibit utilities from disclosing metering information to third parties or transmitting it in insecure ways. I also support the right of citizens like you to opt out of having a transmitting meter on their property.

The Michigan Public Service Commission recently approved an opt-out program for DTE and Consumers Energy. Customers would pay a one-time fee and a monthly fee to offset the costs of sending a meter reader out to their houses. The current opt-out plan for DTE would require the installation of a smart

meter with its communication capabilities disabled. However, I believe that Consumers' Energy, unlike DTE, is allowing consumers with existing analog meters to retain them. You may wish to contact DTE directly to ask why their policy differs.

As you mentioned in your letter to Rep. Nesbitt, Rep. McMillan introduced House Bill 4315 earlier this year. This bill would allow customers to opt out, keep their analog meters, and not be charged extra for doing so. I am carefully considering whether to support this legislation if it comes to a vote on the floor. I am concerned because the bill in its current form requires the utilities to put analog meters in place of smart meters that have already been installed, if the customer requests it. I am not sure this is feasible, since analog meters are no longer being made, and neither are replacement parts. Most of the analog meters in Ann Arbor have already been replaced and discarded. The only way I would even get a chance to vote on HB 4315, however, is if it makes it out of committee. The bill is currently before the House Energy and Technology Committee, of which I am not a member. The committee chair, Rep. Nesbitt, in conjunction with the Speaker of the House, controls whether a bill will get a hearing or a vote in committee. Since you originally wrote to the committee chair, I am curious to know if he responded to you, and if he indicated whether the bill will be moving forward. Thank you again for writing to me about this issue; your input is valuable to me as I consider smart meter legislation.

If you would like to keep up to date with what I'm working on in Lansing, please email me at jeffirwin@house.mi.gov to subscribe to my free e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Irwin

Jim Marleau—sponsor of SB 819

May __, 2014
David Lonier
1842 Commonwealth
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326

Dear Mr. __,

Thank you for your interest and support regarding legislation to address smart meter requirements in Michigan. When Senate Bill 819 is brought before the Senate Energy and Technology Committee, it is my intention to offer amendments as a substitute to the bill. To this end, I have introduced Senate Bill 819. The intent for the offered amendments would be to protect residents from any additional cost if they decide against the smart meter option. Again, thank you for sharing my concern and your potential support. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance to you.

Respectfully,

Jim Marleau

State Senator
Serving Oakland

Marleau makes it clear that all he would do is provide for a no-fee opt-out. He has no interest in amending the bill to provide an analog option and no interest in including businesses or in providing for a community-wide opt-out.

Marleau sponsored this bill only to quiet some vocal constituents.

248-724-2442

www.smartmetereducationnetwork.com