

2017-00321

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

RECEIVED

<p>Mail your comments to:          Kentucky Public Service Commission          211 Sower Boulevard, P.O. Box 615          Frankfort, KY 40602.          Or fax to: (502) 564-3460</p>	<p>FEB 14 2018          PUBLIC SERVICE          COMMISSION</p>
---	--

Name: Judy Klette

Address: 104 Burgess Ln., Florence, Ky 41042

Case: 2017-00321

COMMENTS: You are pricing people on  
fixed income right out of money. We  
simply can't pay what you are asking.  
This raise and smart meters are  
terrible. You put the smart meters  
in which has raised everyone's bill  
and now you want a raise.  
Check out what has happened  
in Tennessee in the attached.

Judy Klette



Home JOIN US!

Take Action Read

Bill Tracking TAC Store

HELP US!

# Tennessee Bill Would Allow Customers to Opt Out of Smart Meters, Undermine Federal Program

Home / Issues / Smart Meters



**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (Jan. 23, 2018) – A bill introduced in the Tennessee Senate would allow customers to opt out of installing “smart meter” technology on

their homes and businesses without penalty. Passage of this bill would enable Tennesseans to protect their own privacy, and it would take a step toward blocking a federal program in effect.

Sen. Mark Green (R-Clarksville) introduced Senate Bill 1679 ([SB1679](#)) on Jan. 18. The legislation would ensure utility customers can easily opt-out of smart meter programs.

Smart meters monitor home energy usage in minute detail in real time. The devices transmit data to the utility company where it gets stored in databases. Anybody with access to the data can download it for analysts. Without specific criteria limiting access to the data, these

JOIN TAC!



HELP US OUT!



devices create significant privacy issues. Smart meters can also be used to remotely limit power usage during peak hours.

SB1679 would prohibit utilities from installing a smart meter on a home or business without the customer's written and signed consent. It would also prohibit utilities from punishing customers who refuse to install smart meters by discontinuing service or charging a fee. Under the proposed law, utilities could not charge a customer for removing an existing smart meter.

### Privacy Concerns

The proliferation of smart meters creates significant privacy concerns. The data collected can tell anybody who holds it a great deal about what goes on inside a home. It can reveal when residents are at home, asleep or on vacation. It can also pinpoint "unusual" energy use, and could someday serve to help enforce "energy usage" regulations. The ACLU [summarized the privacy issues](#) surrounding smart meters in a recent report.

"The temptation to use the information that will be collected from customers for something other than managing electrical loads will be strong – as it has been for cell phone tracking data and GPS information. Police may want to know your general comings and goings or whether you're growing marijuana in your basement under grow lights. Advertisers will want the information to sell you a new washing machine to replace the energy hog you got as a wedding present 20 years ago. Information flowing in a smart grid will become more and more 'granular' as the system develops."

The privacy issues aren't merely theoretical. According to information obtained by the California ACLU, utility companies in the state have disclosed information gathered by smart meters on thousands of customers. San Diego Gas and Electric alone disclosed data on more than 4,000 customers. The vast majority of disclosures were in response to subpoenas by government agencies "often in drug enforcement cases or efforts to find specific individuals," [according to SFGate](#).

"Mark Toney, executive director of the Utility Reform Network watchdog group, said the sheer number of data disclosures



## TAC Newsletter

Join Our Mailing List	
* indicates required	
Email Address *	
State *	
<input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Check to ALSO Get the TAC Daily Digest <input type="checkbox"/> TAC Daily Digest	
Subscribe	

## Top Posts & Pages

- [The Tenth Amendment Center Blog](#)
- [Georgia Bill Would Legalize Marijuana: Foundation to Nullify](#)



made by SDG&E raised the possibility that government agencies wanted to sift through large amounts of data looking for patterns, rather than conducting targeted investigations.”

### **No Smart Meter, No Data**

Refusing to allow a smart meter on your property is the only sure-fire way to ensure your energy use data won't fall into the hands of government agents or private marketers, or end up stored in some kind of government database. Passage of SB1679 would make opting out a legal option for Tennesseans and give them control over their own privacy.

### **Impact on Federal Program**

The federal government serves as [a major source of funding for smart meters](#). A 2009 program through the U.S. Department of Energy distributed \$4.5 billion for smart grid technology. The initial projects were expected to fund the installation of 1.8 million smart meters over three years.

The federal government lacks any constitutional authority to fund smart grid technology. The easiest way to nullify such programs is to simply not participate. SB1679 would make that possible. If enough states pass similar legislation, and enough people opt out, the program will go nowhere.

We've seen a [similar opt-out movement undermining Common Core in New York](#). Opting out follows a strategy James Madison advised in *Federalist #46*. "Refusal to cooperate with officers of the Union" provides a powerful means to fight back against government overreach. Such actions in multiple states would likely be effective in bringing down federal smart meter programs.

### **WHAT'S NEXT**

SB1679 had not been referred to a committee at the time of this report. Once it receives a committee assignment, it will need to pass by a majority vote before moving forward in the legislative process.

[Federal Prohibition](#)  
[What is Federalism?](#)  
[Why is it important?](#)  
[Today in History:](#)  
[James Otis, Jr. Was Born](#)  
[Tennessee Bills Would Help Encourage Use of Gold and Silver as Money](#)

[About](#)   [Latest Posts](#)

Mike Maharrey