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Public Comment in KU/LG&E Smart Meter Case

July 9, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the LG&E proposed smart meters. I am an LG&E customer and I also serve on two boards for low income utility programs in the LG&E service area. In my board service for the programs serving low income households, we know that many are renters and do not have control over fixing up their homes. We use Project Warm and We Care when possible, but so much is beyond the control of people, like efficient appliances. So they will be paying without being able to take advantage of seeing and adjusting their usage.

This is an expensive proposal that asserts that the cost will be offset by savings and benefits in the long run. That is a bold projection that has not been backed up by information from other service areas. These projections are speculative guesses and we should wait until we have evidence from other areas that these kinds of projects actually reduce costs and generate benefits.

In the instance of smart meters, the rate payers of LG&E will be the ones who will pay for the shortfall of such an expensive proposal with additional increases in their monthly utility bills that will exacerbate the rate increases that continue to occur. This proposal has the potential to make even more customers unable to pay their monthly utility bills. Especially low income customers will be placed at an even greater risk of losing utility services.

The opt out part of this proposal is not really an option as customers- especially low income customers will find it difficult to pay more each month on their bill for not participating. Ultimately, all LG&E

customers will experience increased utility costs as a result of this proposal.

Mary Bryan,

1463 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Louisville, KY 40208

