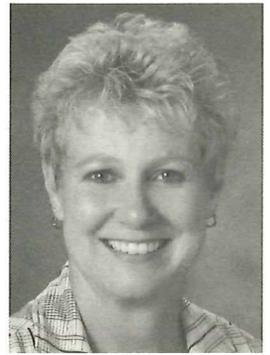




**Province of  
British Columbia**  
Legislative Assembly



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March 31, 2015

Honourable Bill Bennett,  
Minister of Energy and Mines  
PO Box 9060  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bennett,

We write today on behalf of BC residents who are resistant to having Smart Meters installed wirelessly in their homes due to health and safety concerns. Such concerns have led other jurisdictions in North America to offer an alternative for customers to either keep their previous analog meters or use a radio-off Smart Meter. In Quebec, for instance, residents pay \$15 within 30 days and \$5 per month. In British Columbia the cost of either of these alternative programs is punitive and costly for BC Hydro customers.

The BC NDP Official Opposition opposed the government's decision to force BC Hydro to spend over a billion dollars on Smart Meters without the BC Utilities Commission approval or a well-researched business case. BC hydro customers are now paying for this lack of accountability with rate hikes.

The Meter Choices program was to allow those with health concerns be able to pay a small fee to keep their current analog meter or to allow a smart meter with the radio signal turned off. Residents who are receiving their power from BC Hydro are paying significantly higher "legacy fee" rates than any other jurisdiction in Canada to be able to access one of these alternatives.

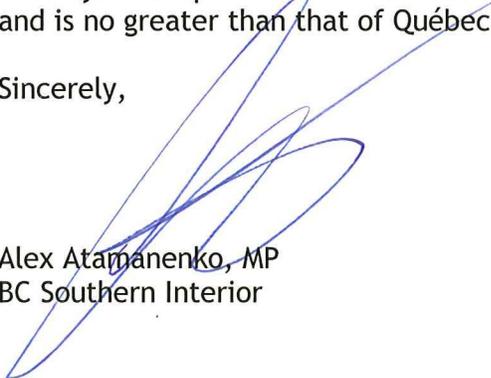
BC Hydro customers across the province need to be treated with respect even when they disagree with the government's direction. This is not happening. BC Hydro customers who refuse Smart Meters are charged an extra \$32.40 per month. If they refuse to pay the extra fee, their electricity is being shut off.

A number of our constituents in the Slocan Valley have had their power shut off even in the middle of winter. As a public policy we find this to be totally unacceptable and inhumane. We feel that resolution can be found to accommodate those who are resisting this program because of health concerns.

We urge you to ensure that:

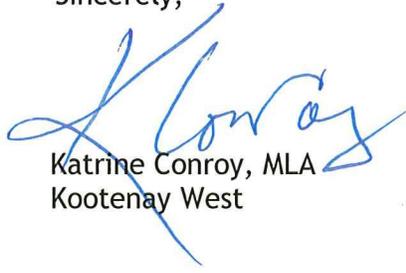
- BC Hydro immediately re-connect electricity to those affected homes at no cost
- BC Hydro adopt a fee structure more consistent with jurisdictions elsewhere in North America and is no greater than that of Québec

Sincerely,



Alex Atamanenko, MP  
BC Southern Interior

Sincerely,



Katrine Conroy, MLA  
Kootenay West

c.c. Tom Mulcair, Leader Official Opposition  
John Horgan, BC NDP - Leader of the Opposition  
Adrian Dix, MLA - BC Hydro Spokesperson  
Murray Rankin, MP - NDP Health critic  
Judy Darcy, MLA - Health spokesperson  
All media

KC/eb