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## Smart Meters: No Clear Authority for Installation in Georgia

### Health hazards to consumers far outweigh conveniences to power companies.

*In January, the day after I gave legislators copies of the Federal Energy Act of 2005 and documentation of the dangers posed by smart meters, the director of the smart meter program in Georgia called me at home and insinuated that the PSC authorized smart meter installation. When I asked for a copy of the authorization and minutes of that PSC meeting, he quietly admitted, "Well, technically, we don't need their permission."*

When I first reported the installation of smart meters in Georgia in the February 4, 2011 issue of *Georgia Insight*, the project had been under way since 2008, under the radar. In places smart meters were installed, most occupants had no idea their meter had been replaced or that the new one is a two-way radio frequency communication device. They didn't/don't know it emits radiation 24 hours a day around the clock, deposits electrical "noise" and high-frequency spikes throughout the wiring and is remotely read every 15 minutes (96 times each 24 hours).

Although the 2005 Federal Energy Act requires utilities to "offer" smart meters to consumers "requesting time-based billing," we have yet to find a consumer who requested time-based billing or was *offered* a smart meter or was informed of its hazardous radio frequency radiation.

After running errands April 20, 2010, we accidentally learned that our analog meter was gone. The clue: our digital clocks were blinking. Georgia Power had shut off the electricity to install a smart meter on the outside wall, 14 feet from the location of our bed on the same wall inside.

In September 2010, my husband Robert was diagnosed with skin cancer for the first time in his life. He had surgery. At his first three-months' check-up, the plastic surgeon found two more spots of skin cancer, which were, subsequently removed, as well. His six-months' check-up will be in September. Also, both of us experience continual ringing in our ears.

Robert's monitoring Public Service Commission meetings has been very revealing. Providers of electricity in Georgia had/have no legislative or PSC authority to install smart meters. They had/have no authority to require consumers to have/accept/tolerate smart meters. Georgia Power and EMC could've/should've upgraded with meters that do not emit radio frequency radiation. The smart meter is still on our home, although we repeatedly ask for its removal.

I know of no location where Georgia Power has complied with requests to remove smart meters. They finished their installations in North Georgia and, with in-your-face determination, are proceeding with the second phase – installing smart meters from Macon to the Florida line.

### Three Cheers for Sawnee EMC!

- Sawnee EMC customers have had good response about the smart meter situation.
- Sawnee honored a consumer request to remove the smart meter and reinstall the analog.
- Sawnee honored a request NOT to install a smart meter and left the analog meter in place.

**ACTION – (a) Explain to your utility (Georgia Power or an EMC) that the smart meter on your property is a serious health hazard that becomes more hazardous with each one installed in the "mesh Network." (b) If a smart meter is on your property, ask for its removal. (c) If your meter is an analog, attach a sign, "Do NOT remove my meter."**

**H.B. 630**  
**Sexual Orientation & Gender ID:**  
**Elevate to Protected Civil Rights Status**  
**Republican Signatories**

- ~~174 Ellis Black~~  
404 656-0287, h. 229 559-7546, c. 229 251-0303
- ~~41 Sharon Cooper~~  
404 656-5069, h. 770 951-2841, f. 770 956-9693  
o. 770 956-8357
- 48 Harry Geisinger  
404 656-0254, h. 770 993-4264, f. 770 594-1510  
c. 678 777-6010
- ~~149 Gerald Greene~~, 404 656-0202, h. 229 732-2750
- 118 Ben Harbin  
404 656-3949, o. 706 869-1953, f. 706 863-8959
- 80 Mike Jacobs  
404 656-0152, h. 770 452-2811, o. 404 954-5019,
- ~~29 Alan Powell~~  
404 656-0202, o. 706 376-4422, f. 404 651-8086
- ~~129 Kip Smith~~, 404 656-0213, cell 706 315-8532
- 131 Richard Smith  
404 656-6831, 404 463-1673, cell 706 442-3480
- 164 Ron Stephens  
404 656-5099, h. 912 964-0061, f. 912 964-9699  
o. 912 966-5665
- 49 Wendell Willard  
404 656-5125, h. 770 392-0676, o. 770 481-7100  
f. 770 481-7111
- 4 Roger Williams  
404 656-3904, h. 706 278-0390

**ACTION – Thank the five with strikethrough lines above. They withdrew sponsorship of H.B. 630. Their names WERE where the black marks and empty spaces are on the cosponsor sign-up sheet to the right.**

H.B. No. 630 LC 36 1768  
 A BILL

To be entitled an Act to amend Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and employees, so as to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**IN HOUSE**

Read 1<sup>st</sup> time 3-31 20 11  
 Read 2<sup>nd</sup> time 4-11 20 12  
 Read 3<sup>rd</sup> time \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of House

By: (1) DRENNER of the 26th  
 (2) JACOBS 80  
 (3) ALAN POWELL  
 (4) WILLARD 49  
 (5) BELL 59  
 (6) WILLARD 49  
 Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY  
 by 2 Thomas 100  
Harold 114

*Morgan 39* *Smith 188* *June 11*  
*Carline 5* *Dickson 95*  
*Taylor 55* *Dolan 119* *85*  
*Harrison 87* *WADSON 124*  
*Mosby 90* *Stephenson 92*  
*De 87* *Brooks 63*  
*R 46* *Scott 116*  
*Randall 138* *DOBBS 53*  
*Smyle 130* *Willie 165* *Hewitt 121* *Kinrich 97*  
*Ash 56* *Frye 113* *Floyd 99* *Stephenson 136*  
*Jullisten 157* *Hansen 82* *96* *Stephenson 136*  
*Karr 59* *77* *Gordon 162* *Stephenson 136*  
*74* *William 412* *Granger 487* *Harbin 111*  
*Neal 75*  
*Thomson 60* *Evans 40*  
*Morgan 91* *Scary 44* *June 37*  
*RPH 126* *Willard 89* *John 33*  
*111* *June 11*

**Above. Clerk's Record: H.B. 630, date filed, sponsor/cosponsors, as of 6-3-11**  
 H.B. 630, introduced March 31, 2011 by Representative Karla Drenner, is in the House Judiciary Committee until 2012. Its drastic shift in public policy elevates variant sexual behaviors to civil rights status and triggers affirmative action based on sexual orientation and gender identity in state, city and county jobs, including but not limited to school teachers/counselors./staff, day care workers, public health nurses, security, etc.  
**ACTION – Oppose H.B. 630.** Ask the cosponsors of H.B. 630, documented above, to remove their names as cosponsors. Republican cosponsors are listed in the column on the left and the Democrat cosponsor list is on page three. As indicated in the left column, five removed their names after considering the results of such a radical change..

## H.B. 630 Civil Rights Status for Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

District	Democrat Cosponsors	Capitol Phone, Fax; Home Phone, Fax; Dist. Office Phone, Fax, Cell
86	Karla Drenner, Author	404 656-0202, f. 404 651-8086, (only numbers available)
84	Stacey Abrams	404 656-5058, o. 404 378-9434, f. 404 378-3328
141	Rusty Kidd	404 656-0202, h. 479 454-0151, o. 478 452-1354, f. 478 452-3493
100	Brian Thomas	404 656-0220, h. 678 380-6938, cell 404 915-4586
114	Keith Heard	404 656-0220, h. 706 353-1772, f. 706 548-7952, cell 706 540-1071
85	Stephanie Benfield	404 656-7859, h. 404 377-7014, cell 404 964-7025
57	Pat Gardner	404 656-0265, h. 404 873-6208, cell 678 362-6599
83	Mary Margaret Oliver	404 656-0265, h. fax 404 377-0486
66	Virgil Fludd	404 656-0314, o. 770 683-8711, cell 678 520-8370
132	Calvin Smyre	404 656-0116, h. 706 563-1794, o. 706 649-2243, f. 706 649-2479
56	Kathy Ashe	404 656-0116, f. 404 651-8086, h. 404 892-6406, f. 404 875-0548
151	Carol Fullerton	404 656-0126, h. 229 883-3881, f. 229 436-6854, cell 229 343-0782
74	Roberta Abdul-Salaam	404 656-0325, o. 678 489-2047, cell 678 508-7388
64	Roger Bruce	404 656-0314, h. phone/fax 404 344-8051
92	Pam Stephenson	404 656-0126, h. 404 815-7400, o. 404 243-0200, f. 404 243-0307
63	Tyrone Brooks	404 656-6372, h. 404 753-3361, office 404 524-5531
160	Bob Bryant	404 656-0298, h. fax 912 964-0065, cell 912 659-4122
165	Al Williams	404 656-6372, o. 912 977-5600, f. 912 368-4982
88	Billy Mitchell	404 656-0126, h. 770 465-8800, f. 770 465-8888
120	Quincy Murphy	404 656-0265, h. 706 863-0532, o. 706 790-4600, f. 706 798-5130
121	Wayne Howard	404 656-6372, h. 706 724-7828, o. 706 722.1123
99	Hugh Floyd	404 656-0250, h. 770 921-2735, cell 404 202-8212
37	Terry Johnson	404 656-0325, h. 770 432-7028, f. 770 432-5364
33	David Wilkerson	404 656-0116, f. 404 656-9645, cell 770 891-9736
150	Winfred Dukes	404 656-0127, h. 229 883-8537, f. 229 883-2188, o. 229 883-8537
94	Dar'shun Kendrick	404 656-0109, 404 651-8086, h. 678 323-7887, o. 678 739-8109
128	Carl Von Epps	404 656-7859, h. 706 884-6768, f. 706 884-0408
135	Lynmore James	404 656-0116, 404 656-0250, h. 478 472-6391, cell 478 951-7339
130	Debbie Buckner	404 656-0116, h. 706 269-3630
81	Elena Parent	404 656-6372 (only one available)
96	Pedro Marin	404 656-0314 (only one available)
162	J. Craig Gordon	404 656-0287, o. 912 231-8958
40	Stacey Evans	404 656-6372, o. 770 710-4087
44	Sheila Jones	494 656-0323, fax 404 651-8086
89	Coach Williams	404 656-0202, f. 404 651-8086
53	Elly Dobbs	404 656-7859, f. 404 651-8086
123	Gloria Frazier	404 656-0265, h. 706 560-9709
82	Scott Holcomb	404 656-6372, cell 404 387-0373
77	Darryl Jordan	404 656-0116 (only one available)
122	Earnest Smith	404 656-6372, cell 706 832-4690
95	Pamela Dickerson	404 656-0314, h. 770 602-0085
93	Dee Dawkins-Haigler	404 656-0287 (only one available)
124	Sistie Hudson	404 656-7859, h. 706 444-7247
76	Sandra Scott	404 656-0314, cell 678 283-7149
61	Ralph Long	404 656-0325, cell 770 616-2130
75	Yasmin Neal	404 656-0265 (only one available)
60	Gloria Tinubu	404 656-0220 (only one available)
55	Rashad Taylor	404 656-0220 (only one available)
87	Michelle Henson	404 656-7859, h. 404 296-1442
90	Howard Mosby	404 656-0287, o. 404 656-0298
58	Simone Bell	404 656-0325 (only one available)
59	Margaret Kaiser	404 656-0265, h. 404 223-6269
39	Alisha Morgan	404 656-0109, f. 770 948-6447
91	Rahn Mayo	404 656-6372, h. fax 404 591-8693
	138 Nikki Randall	404 656-0109, h. 478 474-7932

**H.B. 630, introduced March 31, 2011 by Representative Karla Drenner, will be held for action in the 2012 legislature. If passed it would mainstream variant sexual orientations and gender identities through affirmative action in federal, state, city and county jobs that are funded with tax money. Public jobs include employment in government agencies and tax-funded affiliates, such as education – teachers, aides, counselors, security, school nurses. “Sex” and “gender” have very different meanings. If they were synonymous H.B. 630 would not have been introduced, because “sex” is already on the civil rights list. H.B. 630 is an attempt to normalize American Psychiatric Association’s list of deviant sexual behaviors (homosexuality and its variations), as well as gender identity disorders, often manifested by transvestitism (cross-dressing) or surgical sex change or transgender affect. ACTION – Oppose. Ask representatives to take their names off H.B. 630.**

## ***Do You Know What You Pay Georgia Power Per kWh?***

1. *Smart Meters operate 24/7 as time-of-use monitoring and billing devices and are read every 15 minutes.*
2. *Schedule for Time of Use, Residential Energy Only (TOU-REO-5), Effective for March, 2011 Billing Month: Georgia Power Energy Charges: on-peak time, 19.2948 cents per kWh; off-peak, 4.3626 cents per kWh \**
3. *If utilities had published on-peak/off-peak rates, consumers would have adjusted use without new meters.*
4. *Smart meters can ration energy by turning off selected appliances or entire homes/businesses.*

Georgia Power's standard monthly electric bill includes a base charge of \$9.00 plus these add-ons: (a) Environmental Compliance Cost Recovery, (b) Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery, (c) Demand Side Management Residential Schedule, (d) Municipal Franchise Fee, (e) sales tax. The cost of add-ons depends on the kilowatt hours (kWh) used and utility company increases.

The \$9.00 base plus the fees listed above are on all bills. Rates vary. Figure your bill. Read the meter often each month. Calculate with rates as follows, plus the on-/off-peak rates above at \*:

*October – May: first 650 kWh, .050633 cents (per kWh); next 350, .043443 cents; over 1000, .042647 cents.*

*June – September: first 650 kWh, .050633 cents (per kWh); next 350, .084166 cents; over 1000 .086701 cents.*

Georgia Power Time of Use (TOU) rates (for which a smart meter is essential) are based on “**on-peak and off-peak**” use, but bills don't separate the two totals. The on-peak time period is defined as between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, June through September, excluding July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day. From October through May, all usage is **off-peak** time and charges decline after the first 1500 kWh. If this data were noted on electric bills, consumers could limit on-peak usage themselves and smart meters would be unnecessary.

The motive for installing smart meters is much more involved than raising prices for peak use. For example, smart meters give utility companies the capacity to ration individual energy use by shutting off power to anyone/anything any time anywhere, for however long for any reason.

**Are smart meters mandatory?** *No. The Federal government, including DOE, does not have any role in regulating the installation of smart meters and has no policy about their mandatory adoption. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 does not make any standards mandatory and does not give the Commission authority to make or enforce any such standards.*

**Are smart meters dangerous?** *Yes. They transmit pulses of microwave energy roughly every minute, 24/7, and repeat signals from neighboring meters in a “mesh Network.” They are likely to cause a net increase in our overall “carbon footprint.” They can be easily hacked into, which could mean a remote shut down of your power and inflated electric bills. Burglars would know when you're out of town. Your ID could be stolen and smart meters could cause fires in homes with old wiring. Hackers could easily shut down the entire electric grid.*

**Is a “powered-down” smart meter an acceptable replacement?** *No. A wireless smart meter would still be attached to your home or business. Scientists and engineers say the internal switching mechanism can put high-frequency spikes and “noise” throughout your home wiring.*

**Are smart meters health hazards?** *Yes. Proven effects are dizziness, nausea, loss of memory, headaches, migraines, muscle spasms, insomnia and cancer. A Maine doctor asked for smart meters to be removed after treating a patient for radio frequency radiation. She recovered, went home and the problem recurred. Moving won't help. Maine has only one provider of electricity.*

**ACTION – Oppose.** Georgia Power customers: call the Public Service Commissioners, 404 463-4361, about your concerns. Then call Georgia Power. EMC customers: call your EMC about meters. PSC does NOT regulate your EMC.



*Georgia Insight* is a conservative publication financed entirely by its recipients.