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August 16, 2010

Assembly Member Huffman  
State Capitol Building, Room 3120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Huffman,

Thank you for your letter dated July 30, 2010 requesting assistance in determining the safety of the new electronic metering devices currently being installed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). We understand that concern has been expressed by Marin County Board of Supervisors, City of Sebastopol, City of Fairfax, and Marin Association of Realtors about the health effects of the radio frequency transmitters, known as SmartMeters which are used to continuously measure the electricity output from individual households and businesses.

The California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) is an independent, non-political, science and technology organization created by the legislature to provide unbiased, peer reviewed, relevant and up to date information that is of help to policy makers and the general public. Collectively, we can access top experts in science and technology from across the state, and through our association with the National Academies, the nation. We thank you for reaching out to us and welcome the opportunity to provide the scientific evidence that can be used by policy makers to help resolve the debate over whether SmartMeters present a significant risk of adverse health effects.

We particularly note that there is public concern that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standards are not sufficiently protective of public health and do not take into account the cumulative effect of radiation exposure from a growing number of sources and devices, including continuous exposure from some sources. While it is not possible to predict future evidence or further effects, we can give a conclusive assessment from current knowledge.

CCST therefore proposes to compile and assess the evidence available to address:

1. Whether FCC standards for SmartMeters are sufficiently protective of public health taking into account current exposure levels to radiofrequency and electromagnetic fields.
2. Whether additional technology specific standards are needed for SmartMeters and other devices that are commonly found in and around homes, to ensure adequate protection from adverse health effects.

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CCST will by October 15, deliver to you a written response and also make available a cadre of experts willing and able to discuss the issues.

Thank you once again for bringing scientific evidence to the forefront of an important policy decision.

Sincerely,

Charles F Kennel Karl Pister Susan Hackwood

Charles Kennel

Karl Pister

Susan Hackwood

Cc: Jenny Callaway  
Lawrence Cooper