

COUNTY OF SONOMA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 1, 2011

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Room 3120
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **Assembly Bill 37 - Support**

Dear Assemblyman Huffman:

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 37 which you have introduced to require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to identify alternative options for customers opposed to the installation and use of advanced metering infrastructure or so-called "Smart Meters." Given the level of concerns raised by the public in regards to both the accuracy and the potential health impacts, this legislation is overdue.

We have seen a many individuals and communities which have expressed concerns about the lack of regulatory oversight by the CPUC regarding Smart Meters. These concerns have repeatedly led to requests for the County to intervene when we do not have any legal authority nor the resources to do so. Although the intention to create a Smart Grid is laudable and should work to ensure greater energy conservation, it must be built upon the foundation of community awareness, understanding and confidence in the implementing technology, and proven, reliable and safe technology. Clearly, the CPUC should be taking steps to work with consumers to answer critical questions and respond to concerns as they arrive around the roll out of new utility services and provide consumers with a choice in this issue.

Thank you again for introducing AB 37. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has unanimously supported your bill and stand ready to support it as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,


EFREN CARRILLO,
Chair and Fifth District Supervisor
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

CC: Governor Jerry Brown
Assemblymen Michael Allen and Wesley Chesbro
Senators Noreen Evans and Mark Leno
Paul Yoder
CSAC