

# DOCKET

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**From:** "Tom Byrnes" <zaphodb@zaphodb.org>  
**To:** <cgekas@energy.state.ca.us>  
**Date:** 1/10/2008 7:24 AM  
**Subject:** FW: RE The Thermostat rule: Letter to the Governor.

I saw the new Thermostat rule, and felt compelled to act. The letter I just send the Governor is below:

Governor Schwarzenegger,

When I voted for you, I did so because I believed that you were a Ronald Reagan Republican: Socially Tolerant, Economically Libertarian; which pretty much sums up the real political makeup of CA. I, like many Californians, was sick of the choice being between Social Conservatives and Dirigiste Socialists, which are both sides of the same coin: Statists. I relished the chance of the recall election to bypass the lock on selection that the lunatic fringe have on our choices, since they are the ones who control the primaries. When you were elected, I thought a new day was here for California. I have become more and more disillusioned over the past few years as I saw not much changing, but the latest idea out of Sacramento: remote control thermostats, makes my blood boil.

Like you, I emigrated to the US, Legally, from Europe (Ireland, 1984), to get away from the stifling overregulation and grinding lack of opportunity of a closed society run by, and for, the elites. Like you, I am a US Citizen. Like most immigrants who can, I vote in every election. I am currently a registered Republican, which is what I have been most of my adult life.

Your administration's latest proposal: remote control of thermostats, is typical of the centrally controlled, dirigiste, mindset that has left France, and most of continental Europe, economically moribund for the past 30 years. It flies in the face of what makes America unique and great: decisions made at the lowest level, under market forces.

In My Not So Humble Opinion, this, and the rest of the dirigiste regulations on the environment that have been coming out of Sacramento lately, needs to be replaced with a market-based approach.

Currently, in San Diego (where I live), the residential meters have no time based metering, or pricing.

Rather than direct remote control of my thermostat, which is an invasion of my home, why not direct that ALL meters in CA should have time/demand based metering/pricing capability, and let the homeowner decide what the maximum price they are willing to pay per unit is? If the price exceeds that number, power ceases to flow. Also, direct the utilities to allow local cogeneration.

If you truly want to address the energy crisis facing this state, and generate green energy, then making all ordinances and HOA rules prohibiting solar and wind power null and void, and forcing the utilities to allow meters to run backwards if the home generates more power than it consumes, are much more powerful tools than a big brother approach that even Francois Mitterrand (I lived in France as well) would have abhorred.

I beg you to reconsider this misguided approach, and fire or reassign those who proposed it. They clearly have the wrong mindset: big government is the answer; to deal with this state's real problems.

If you like centrally managed economies so much, please move to Venezuela or Cuba. Everywhere else, including France, has thrown off that yoke FOR A REASON.

Tom Byrnes

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