



From: Ophira Levant <ophiralevant@hotmail.com>
To: <dockets@energy.state.ca.us>
CC: john and ken producer <robinbertolucci@clearchannel.com>, "johnandken@jo...
Date: 11112008 1:54 PM
Subject: Nanny State Remote Controlled Electricity

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to regulate Californians' energy usage by central remote control.

Personal Experience

1) I am a mother whose child was born in the terribly hot summer of 2006. Because the daily temperatures were 110-115 F, we stayed indoors the entire summer. My child and I would have suffered immensely had our air conditioning been tampered with during those hot days. As a breastfeeding mother, my health would have been in jeopardy from heat exhaustion/excessive perspiration. Having to provide nutrition to a baby who is relying entirely on my good health, for his good health.

How many others like me will there be? You cannot decide what a healthy temperature is for someone else. You will jeopardize someone's health, and some people will die with a click of your remote control.

2) My husband and I have budgeted for air conditioning expense, for the good of our family. You do not have the right to override our good sense.

The Slippery Slope - after remote controlled air conditioning, what else?

1) I have more than one child. Children make messes and create lots of laundry. It is my duty to keep my children clean and healthy. Will you also decide that my washing machine/dryer usage is too high? You cannot cut power so that my quality of life will be affected.

2) I have an extra freezer so that I can cook meals for my family in a healthy way. Will you decide my energy consumption is too high, and cut power to that, too?

The Chinese Example

I lived and worked in China for three years. The Chinese government is entirely in charge of energy. The system is corrupt and mismanaged.

Here is what I experienced in Harbin, city of 5 million:

1) Hot water only available for two hours in the morning, and two hours in the evening. Those who pay extraordinarily high fees can have more hours of hot water. Those with connections (under the table) can have whatever they want.

2) Power cuts are randomly executed, to redirect power from residences and commercial sites, to industrial zones. This affects elevators, lights, heating and cooling systems, cash registers....

3) Even with modernization, the government's control grows. In Beijing, you must buy a 'debit card' for your electricity and gas usage in your house. Insert the debit card, and your usage clicks away. Citizens are still subjected to outages, randomly. Businesses do not and cannot run smoothly, and the newly-wealthy segment grows agitated.

Instead of being foresightful and building new power plants, China chooses to regulate its citizens, as only a dictatorship can do.

Surely California can do better than that.

Ophira Levant

Encino, CA

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