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To: Beverly Duffy
Date: 1/15/08 2:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Smart Thermostats

DOCKET			
07-BSTD-1			
DATE	JAN 1 2	2008	
FILED	JAN 1 6	2008	

>>> <barry@rockusa.com> 1/15/2008 12:57 PM >>>

I am totally opposed to this proposal and will not allow any such device into either my residence or office. I will not use energy efficient light bulbs, low water usage toilets or low pressure shower heads - what people do in the privacy of their own homes is their business and none of the governments. This is not an Orwellian dictatorship!

Smart meters are a great idea, because they provide useful information to citizens that enable them to make intelligent decisions. But the choice must remain with the individual, not any governmental agency - that is the hallmark of freedom.

As for setting thermostats to 88 degrees, we keep ours at a comfortable 68 degrees and will not change this, even in a "power emergency". There wouldn't be power outages if the utilities provided greater incentives to individuals to purchase and install clean renewable energy such as solar and wind or if they constructed more clean power plants to meet the growing demand (i.e., no coal or nuclear plants).

As a final point, I would like to see a regulation requiring the immediate phase-out of all nuclear power plants in the state, as they are a major liability to the public's safety, particularly given the current terrorist threats, and an absolute ban on the construction of any new nuclear power plants, as well as a ban on any California utility purchasing coal. There should also be an immediate ban on the use of any and all diesel fuel and engines, including cars, busses and trucks. We need additional power - but it needs to be safe, clean and environmentally responsible, with individual citizens in charge of their own private lives, free from the control of a government that exists to serve them, not dictate to them.