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Mr. Rosenfeld,

I'm surprised that someone with your background in science, and specifically in physics, would support allowing a private corporation to intrude into the privacy of the homes of individuals. I have to assume that you as a scientist are against government control of scientific inquiry and for good reason. It violates the basic need for freedom of thought in any pursuit of the truth of things. I should think you would also object to any intrusion of a corporation (PG&E) backed by the government into how individuals live their private lives.

I realize an argument can be made that the control of the thermostat in a home doesn't rank in importance with other private behavior, but it's the principle of the matter, a principle that once compromised can all too easily lead to other intrusions, all in the name of efficiency.

One of the basic arguments for dictatorial governments is they are more efficient. Those who are enamored of efficiency believe that government control is the most efficient way of achieving it. Free and democratic states are inefficient by nature. They function on the principle that education is the least invidious and finally most effective way of changing behavior.

You seem to believe that when it comes to getting the public to be responsible in their use of energy the best way to do so is for the government to trump not just freedom of behavior but the privacy of the home by allowing a corporation to control the behavior.

If you think this is just a matter of theory or flaky principle, you haven't paid attention to the fact that a first principle of those with the power to govern is to acquire power over individual behavior, believing as they do that they who govern always know what is best for the governed.

I have to say I am puzzled how someone who claims to be a scientist can support such an intrusion into the privacy of the home for no other purpose than a presumed gain of efficiency. It's not a matter of public or private safety. It's a matter of efficiency. I say presumed because the government fails regularly in this pursuit. Need I mention the deregulation of energy companies as one of its glaring failures?

Most sincerely,

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