

Premier John Horgan  
Constituency Office  
Sept. 1, 2017

Dear Premier Horgan,

Re. Smart Meters – A Fire Hazard

Over the last 3-4 years I have sent you, Mr. Dix, other members of the NDP, the Liberal premier and energy ministers, BC Hydro and the BCUC information about smart meter fires that have occurred in BC and elsewhere. In 2015 I submitted a formal complaint to the BCUC, to which all of the above parties were copied, with details about several incidents with smart meters overheating, burning, and causing fires. Several electrical engineers provided details of design flaws that cause these meters to be fire hazards. My complaint was dismissed -- nothing has been done. These dangerous devices are still on nearly 2 million homes in BC.

John, I know that you are concerned with the costs for replacing these devices, but I believe that, like any defective device, the manufacturer should be held accountable. ITRON had to know that these devices were defective long before BC Hydro and FortisBC signed contracts. Even today, they still are promoting and selling these meters across North America even though they have never been certified to be safe. If you had a defective toaster you would return it to the company and demand your money back. How is having a defective smart meter any different, except it presents a greater danger.

In these binders is evidence that not only have these meters caused fires, but also that there is no oversight whatsoever at any level. Regulations are being ignored. Laws are being broken. All with impunity.

This program was implemented by a Liberal government that avoided transparency and prevented oversight. The amortized costs of the program are understated but still are among the highest (if not THE highest) per meter in North America. The public was harassed and only a few have been allowed to pay the highest 'opt out' fees in North America to keep their analogs for a limited period.

As we've discussed over the years, I believe there are many problems with the smart meter, but the fact that it is a known and proven fire hazard, putting lives at risk, is one of the most significant. I hope that you, as Premier, will consider the evidence I am providing. Please consider demanding a recall of these defective fire hazards, at ITRON's cost.

Should you have any questions regarding anything in my report, or if you wish additional information, please know that I would be happy to respond.

With respect and warm regards,

Sharon Noble

I will be providing this report to Energy Minister Mungall, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Trevena, the BCUC, the Green Party and the