



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 11, 2010	CONTACTS: Dan Okenfuss (Huffman) – (916) 319-2006 Ryan Guillen (Monning) – (916) 319-2027
Joint Statement of Assemblymembers Huffman and Monning on Release of Smart Meter Report by the California Council on Science and Technology	

Sacramento, CA – Assemblymember Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and Assemblymember Bill Monning (D-Carmel) issued the following statement today in response to the release of the report, “Health Impacts of Radio Frequency from Smart Meters,” produced by the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST):

Last year, we requested this independent scientific study by the CCST in response to concerns and questions that were being raised by our constituents regarding potential adverse health effects from smart meters. It was our hope that a rigorous, independent scientific analysis would elevate the debate over smart meters and help point the way to sound, science-based public policy decisions. We are grateful to CCST for undertaking this project, for assembling an impressive team of independent experts and reviewers, and for working diligently to complete a report that is responsive to our requests.

CCST’s study does not conclusively resolve the smart meter debate. It does provide a credible measure of assurance that smart meters, whether standing alone, in clusters, or in combination with other household electronic devices, do not pose a serious risk of harm from thermal effects. The report concludes that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standard based on thermal effects is appropriate and would appear to be fully protective of human health, and that even under “worst case” operational scenarios, smart meters produce radio frequency (RF) exposures much lower than the FCC standard.

However, the CCST study does not dismiss the possibility that other, non-thermal health effects from RF exposures might be scientifically established in the future. CCST recommends that studies and monitoring on this issue continue, and that in the meantime, consumers should have more complete information than what is currently available regarding RF emissions from smart meters and other electronic devices so that they can make informed and prudent decisions. The benefits of smart meters and a smart grid do not require wireless technology, and consideration should be given to providing alternative hard-wired meters for consumers who continue to be concerned about potential health risks.

The Council will be accepting public comments about this report's findings up to January 31, 2011 through a link on www.ccst.us.

“The study gives a fair assessment of the existing scientific literature on potential health effects,” said Assemblymember Huffman. “While it is reassuring regarding the remote potential for thermal effects, it also calls for more research to determine whether potential non-thermal effects of prolonged exposure to RF devices can be scientifically established. The study strongly validates the approach I have taken with AB 37: whether or not you believe there are health issues, utilities should give consumers complete and accurate information regarding RF emissions from smart meters, and customers should be allowed the alternative of having a hard-wired smart meter.”

“The independent evaluation by the California Council on Science and Technology represents a good start to all those with unanswered questions on the potential health impacts posed by Smart Meters,” stated Assemblymember Monning. “This will help inform both elected officials and the public about the safety of Smart Meters and facilitate future conversation.”

Assembly Bill 37, introduced by Assemblymember Huffman, directs the California Public Utilities Commission to determine alternatives for customers who do not wish to have a smart meter installed. The legislation also directs utilities to disclose important information about the smart meters to consumers, including the timing, magnitude, frequency and duration of radio frequency emissions so that individual consumers can make informed decisions.

Assemblymember Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) represents the 6th Assembly District, which encompasses southern Sonoma County and all of Marin County. First elected in 2006, Huffman chairs the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and also serves as co-chair of the Legislative Environmental Caucus.

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