Dear Mayor Gillingham and Councillors,

I am writing today to request that you **do not s**upport recommendation 1 of item 5. Opt-Out Program for the Advanced Metering System, specifically, “That the City not implement an Opt-Out Program for the Advanced Metering System in order to maximize the full benefits of the AMI technology.

As someone who suffers from Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) and having presented at the EPC meeting in order to express my concerns, I find the idea that the city would not support vulnerable people highly upsetting.

As things stand, Council is being asked to vote on Thursday, July 17 on something they have no clear information on. The Public Service is claiming they will work with affected individuals like me within the confines of the technology, but their proposal is utterly vague leaving those of us who suffer from EHS completely in the dark. *Technology should be used to benefit humanity; humanity should not be made subservient to technology*. As a sufferer of EHS, I already know that I will be harmed by this technology. **Are Councillors going to accept liability for this decision?**

Councillors need to see a detailed proposal for how the Public Service plans to “work with individuals” on this issue *before* they agree to having no formal opt-out procedure and *before* a Request for Proposal is put out. How exactly will the City “work with us?” If I have to move, for example, will I be given the chance to “work with them” again or will I be forced to endure pain and suffering, so the City won’t be “inconvenienced”? Will what they offer me actually keep me from pain and suffering or will I be told “take it or leave it?”

At the Executive Policy Committee meeting on July 8th, I was disappointed that some councillors seemed more concerned with making sure presenters didn't go over their five minute time limit than actually listening to what they had to say. One of the presenters, Canadian scientist Dr. Magda Havas, has been researching the health effects of Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) on humans, animals, pollinators and plants for decades, including the effects of Smart Meters. Right in their midst they had an expert who has testified internationally on the matter, and *they had no questions for her!* They simply shut her down after 5 minutes, despite Dr. Havas saying she had questions from non-EPC Councillors that she would like to answer. It was clear some Councillors did not want to hear what she had to say.

Another presenter, Dr. Meg Sears, Chair of Prevent Cancer Now, also presented compelling reasons why this type of radiation should be minimized. Dr. Sears' report, *"The Medical Perspective on Environmental Sensitivities,"* was commissioned by the Canadian Human Rights Commission and used to develop its policy on environmental sensitivities.

I am appealing to you now to please reject the EPC's recommendation to not have opt-outs even for health issues.

At a minimum, I ask that you ***defer*** **on Recommendation 1 until there is a clear and concise plan outlined by the Public Service** as to what will be offered to EHS sufferers such as myself. The proposed "opt-out" plan should be presented as information before any vote occurs so that there is time for Councillors and the public to study and provide comments.

I should not be forced to endure harm in my own home in order to receive water — something no human can live without. I see this as a Human Rights issue and this has already been recognized as such in other Provinces.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer MacBeath