

August 7, 2018

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08628

**RE: Borough of Upper Saddle
River/Rockland Electric Company
Advanced Metering Infrastructure Program
("AMI" Program "Smart Meters")**

Dear Board Members:

The undersigned is the attorney for the Borough of Upper Saddle River. I am corresponding with the Board at the request of the Upper Saddle River Mayor and Council in connection with the plan of Rockland Electric Company ("Rockland") to install throughout the Borough an Advanced Metering Infrastructure Program ("AMI").

A number of residents have raised concerns to Borough officials regarding this program. More particularly, it is the Borough's understanding that these "smart meters" may be installed by Rockland on a property without securing the consent of the property owner. This should be deemed an unacceptable practice. Consent of the property owner to have work done on its property is required as a matter of law and Rockland should adhere to this usual practice. There is no basis for Rockland to be treated any differently than any other party performing work on a property.

A second concern relates to the fact that Borough residents have been advised by Rockland that should they opt out of the "smart meter" program, they will incur a service charge or penalty of \$15.00 per month. This is unacceptable and constitutes another means by which Rockland is seeking a rate increase. It is particularly noteworthy that the news release dated August 23, 2017 which details the Board's decision to permit Rockland to begin the AMI program and install "smart meters" notes that Rockland will save approximately \$82 million over a twenty (20) year period pertaining to reduced labor for field services and other costs. Rockland should not be permitted an

increase in profit on the backs of consumers who have numerous reasons for deciding not to have a “smart meter” installed on the owner’s property.

These matters continue to be a concern to the Mayor and Council. The Governing Body would suggest that the BPU modify its decision and policy to require property owners to consent to the installation of “smart meters”, and that a consumer opting out of the “smart meter” program not be penalized for such a decision.

Please be advised that Borough officials will be available to discuss this matter with representatives of the Board.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT T. REGAN

RTR:pnc

cc: Upper Saddle River Mayor and Council
Rockland Electric Company
Thomas Brizzolara – Orange and Rockland