

## Petitions

Here are some steps to getting people to sign the petition. You don't have to be a registered voter to sign, and you can get put people from different counties on the same petition. Of course, if you separate them by county, that is helpful. The below seems like a lot to read, but I could tell it to you in three minutes or less, so take the time to read through it now. I used to do this for a living, so the tips should be helpful! (I took on that job many years ago because I was so shy I was afraid to talk to people. So I decided to make my living doing it.)

### *Petitioning is fun!*

Carry the petitions and flyers with you wherever you go. You would be surprised at the many opportunities you have throughout the day to get people to sign. Coffee shops, health food stores, etc are great place to get people involved by striking up a conversation with someone working there. You tell them a little about smart meters, then ask if they'd like to sign.

Our address is at the bottom of the petition. Please mail in after you get 10 signatures, or once a week, because we want to build our email list so that people can take action and write their legislators.

**Very important: Know your audience!** Only link to other causes if that person has brought that cause up themselves. If you *know* a person is supportive of your political leanings, you can say things that include more than the health aspect, but if you *don't* know that, keep it to the health. Otherwise, you can lose people quickly. What is important is that people sign this petition. We need to show that this bill is supported.

### Sample Spiel

Here's an example of what you can say to people. Vary it to suit your own style. Most people don't know what a smart meter is, but some do. Make the spiel shorter or longer depending on who you are talking to. Read the flyer through a few times. It gives you some good information you can use if people ask questions.

Hi. Have you heard about smart meters? . . . They're the new electric meters DTE is putting on everyone's home and business. They are really hazardous to human health because of the dirty electricity they put out. That is this really spiky electricity that runs through your electrical wiring. [Show them with your hand what dirty electricity looks like by moving your hand up and down, big spikes, little spikes —see attached picture]

You know, our bodies communicate through electrical signals. That's how our brains send signals, and our heart, too. The dirty electricity interrupts those signals. The smart meters are causing all kinds of health problems for people. [If you personally are affected, you can say something brief about that here. If not, you can say something like the following:] Some people are affected by them immediately. They get heart palpitations, ringing in their ears, and chronic insomnia. But they will affect everyone because the dirty electricity breaks DNA bonds (which, you know, can cause cancer). It also affects our hormones. People with diabetes have seen their

blood sugar levels go through the roof. It also causes the blood-brain barrier to be breached, which contributes to things like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, ADD, and multiple sclerosis.

This petition says that everyone should have a *choice* about what kind of meter is on their home. It gives everyone the right to keep their analog meter (the old-style meter), and it says the electric company has to get your permission if it wants to install a different kind of meter.

When you start talking to people, hold the petition so they can see it. Let them take it right away if they want to.

Be sure to hand them a flyer as soon as you begin talking. The flyer really helps. It gives people something to look at later. It has our website (and the websites of all 4 smart meter groups in Michigan) and ways to contact us.

As they are signing the petition, make sure they put the city in, and make sure that their email is legible.

**If people don't put an email, say the following:**

“We send out a newsletter once a month to once a week depending on what is going on. We are going to need people to write to their legislators, and the newsletter will alert you when to do that. You won't get a lot of email, just one when something important is happening.” If they don't want to put it, that's fine. Encourage them to check our website from time to time for updates.

**In closing, say:**

“There is a bill that has been introduced in the house. We are going to need people to write their legislators at some point to show that there is a lot of support behind this bill. Our newsletter will tell you when to do that. You can also check our website (show them where it appears on flyer). Thank you for your support.”

**If they seem more than a little bit interested**, get them to pass out some petitions, too. If they are moderately interested, say to them:

“We need all the support we can get. Can I give you a petition? You can get friends and family to sign it.”

If they say yes, say,

“Each petition has room for 10 signatures. How many would you like?”

If they really seem like an activist, ask if they'd be interested in petitioning at rallies, fairs, or door-to-door. **Note:** Always get them to sign the petition that you keep. You never know if they will send any petitions back. I just talked to a woman today who said she would get 200 signatures—as a start! This is how we are going to win. By building exponentially. One person becomes 300 becomes 900 becomes 5000.

Anyone who is an activist, interested in passing out more, put an asterisk next to their name so that when you send it in to us, we know to get in touch with that person. And/or email us their info.

### Other things you can say

- This petition is about choice.
- One woman in Michigan had a smart meter put on her home and didn't know it. After a month of not sleeping well, she began telling people she wasn't sleeping. Someone said, "Do you have a smart meter on your home?" She said, "What's a smart meter?" She looked, and she had one. She could feel it, and began sleeping outside so that she could actually sleep. Her son is diabetic. Stable blood-sugar levels for 2 years. A month after the meter was put on her home, he went for his regular appointment with his endocrinologist (doctor). His blood-sugar levels had spiked into the danger zone. Eventually, she took the meter off her home. A month after that, he saw the endocrinologist again, and his blood sugar levels were back to normal. He couldn't feel the smart meter, but it was affecting his health terribly.