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U. S. Representative Karen McCarthy
1436 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Karen:

What can citizens do when a technical government agency is making bad decisions because of lobbying? The Federal Communications Commission has responded to financial pressure and pre-decided the issue of Broadband over Power lines. They are supposed to be the gate keepers for technical and political sanity on this issue, and they are failing badly. The radio communications interference issue cannot be swept under the table by false claims and promises of future improvements. Here is an example of what happened in Austria:

Austrian authorities have pulled the plug on BPL. The Government Ministry for Commerce and Innovation Technology closed down the city of Linz power company BPL project because of huge interference on the high frequency bands. Short wave broadcaster Radio Austria's FutureZone service says the case that brought the issue to a head was a Red Cross report that emergency services radio traffic during a disaster response drill last May was the victim of massive BPL interference. Additionally, they confirmed that all safety-of-life, military on high frequency, navigation, and aeronautical communications are potentially at risk.

Proposed solutions like providing a BPL dead zone and adding filters around every radio communications site that operates up through the low television bands is an insult to intelligence and integrity. It doesn't work that way politically. And please remember that thousands of individually legal micropower signals combine to produce huge composite international radio interference signals. The correct answer is not to claim "let the market decide" and abdicate responsibility. The correct approach is to promote truly wide broadband Internet over last mile microwave, and fiber-to-the-home like the excellent universal deployment in Canada. The correct approach is to stop Broadband over Power Lines !!!

The industry needs sanity and not big power company special interest money. Valid technical input is not being heard by the agency responsible for technical communications issues. We sincerely ask for your assistance.

Don Reed
Communications Consultant
Director of Engineering