

Message from Advise Guy Robert Talton



After my last article: **Unveiling the Reality of Plug-in Energy Saving Devices**, a member asked about the StopWatt, so we were inclined to do some research and here is what we found.

One series of online scams that seemingly never ends is the false claim that Tesla CEO Elon Musk was involved in the creation of an inexpensive "electricity-saving" device that's about the size of a plug-in night light. U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm was also misleadingly mentioned as purportedly having endorsed the products too.

StopWatt is one of many names of a cheap and constantly rebranded "electricity-saving box" product that scammers have misleadingly associated with Musk, Granholm, Tesla (the company), and even Nikola Tesla himself. Pro Power Saver was one of the other rebranded product names.

According to images of such products, the only words that appeared on the physical devices were, "Intelligent Energy Saver. Electricity-Saving Box. The Result Is the Best." That last bit about "the result is the best" appeared to be poorly translated English. Furthermore, these devices, so called energy savers, are typically cheaply made in foreign lands and

could present a fire hazard to the owners.

Names like StopWatt and Pro Power Saver don't appear on the products since the rebranding from "electricity-saving box" was apparently only a marketing tactic and had no bearing on the creation of the device.

Scams for these "electricity-saving boxes" usually begin with an online ad displayed on a website or in an email newsletter that claims the compact, inexpensive device can save homeowners 90% off their utility bill. Those ads then lead to a scam article that falsely claims Musk created StopWatt.

Continuing with the scam article, it goes on to tell a sad story of a woman named "Dorothy Smith," purportedly a Tesla employee, who died of heat stroke in her home. According to the story, her death inspired Musk to create StopWatt.

For Musk, this was more than just an invention to fight back against the greedy electric companies. The false claim is that when tragedy struck the Tesla factory, Musk knew he had to act. Dorothy Smith was a 64-year-old Tesla employee who died of heat stroke after falling behind on her electric bills and her service was shut off in the middle of a record-break-

ing heat wave. Her youngest daughter came to check up on her after many unanswered phone calls and tragically found Dorothy lifeless on the couch with her husband.

None of this is true. Articles that claim Musk and Tesla created StopWatt are both fiction and scams. Further, there's no record of a Tesla employee named "Dorothy Smith" having died of heat stroke.

When looking for ways to save energy, avoid scams and consider proven measures such as air sealing and insulation. Regular maintenance of HVAC systems, coupled with the routine replacement of return air filters, proves to be instrumental. Prioritizing air infiltration and space conditioning within the home remains one of the most effective approaches. Additionally, maintaining appliances in optimal working condition, utilizing LED lighting, and powering off devices when not in use are fundamental practices that contribute significantly to energy conservation.



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