

Dear Senator Boquist:

It is my understanding that you are a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness. It is also my understanding that this committee will be hearing House Bill 4022.

From a Search and Rescue point of view this bill would cement a hit and miss process that we utilize quite often. I have worked for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office for over 30 years as a Search and Rescue Coordinator. The use of cellular technology in locating missing persons can be very helpful.

Just last week we used this technology to locate a person who left the Coos Bay area and did not show up Monday for work at a logging site in the southern area of Douglas County. He was not reported overdue until Thursday. Both our County and Coos County started search operations. Coos County had four teams that were searching routes from the Coos Bay area to our County line and we started searching with five teams from the logging site toward Coos Bay. We also requested location information on the individual's cell phone and found it was last used in Eagle Point. At this time we requested any outgoing/incoming telephone numbers that were called or that called the individual's cell phone. The cellular provider advised that the phone was on and stationary in Eagle Point. After additional investigation we determined the individual was actually in Eagle Point at a girlfriend's house, he had just not told anyone (family or employer).

The afore listed example is just one of many times were we have used cellular data to assist us in finding people reported missing. It is not an exact system, but it is a useful tool to finding the proverbial needle in a haystack.

This brings me to purpose of this letter. I would encourage you to not only support this Bill but also consider adding language that would allow us to obtain text message information and outgoing/incoming call information.

I am available if you have any questions. The easiest way to contact me is via my cell phone (541)817-4138. Please help provide a valuable tool for Search and Rescue.

*Wayne A. Stinson*, Emergency Manager, CEM®

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**Douglas County Emergency Management Mission Statement**

*“Coordinate resiliency by working with the community to increase its ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and to mitigate against disasters.”*