

February 14, 2014

Honorable Senator Chip Shields
Chair, Senate Committee on General Government,
Consumer and Small Business Protection

Subject: HB 4011

Dear Senator Shields:

Your committee is scheduled to discuss HB 4011 in the very near future. I have no argument with small business protecting its interests; in fact I would say that it's in the best interests of most Oregonians to have flourishing and dynamic small businesses in our communities providing us with goods and services as neighbors and friends. In this regard and consistent with this sentiment I have no objections in general to HB 4011; however I do object to Section 2 of this Bill, which reads in part:

"...a city or county in this state may not require a precious metal secondhand dealer in this state who is also a pawnbroker licensed under ORS chapter 726 to provide a photograph of an item of precious metal acquired through a **pawn** transaction."

I've been the victim of two home burglaries and several car burglaries all of which resulted in the theft of my personal property and that of my wife and two sons. I'm sorry to say that in all but one of these robberies I had no luck in recovering my property. The one time the police were able to get back some of my property was due to the photographing requirement in place for pawn brokers in Eugene, the specific standard that this Bill seeks to remove.

I believe in fair and just laws, laws that are not a burden to those they are intended to protect, and most of all, laws that are all upside for law-abiding citizens. I do not believe that Section 2 of HB 4011 is consistent with any of these principles.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Cordially,

Gregory Mott

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Mott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

February 19, 2014

Senator Chip Shields, Chair
Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business
Protection
Senator Larry George, Vice-Chair
Senator Herman Baertschiger, Jr.
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Senator Floyd Prozanski

RE: Opposition to HB 4011A

Chair Shields and members of the committee:

My name is David Nelkin and I am the owner of Eugene Coin and Jewelry. It has come to my attention that House Bill 4011 is before you and that Section 2 of this bill takes the ability away from city and county governments to require photographs by pawnbrokers of precious metal jewelry when jewelry is pledged for loan. I am required to take photos of all my jewelry purchases, and have found that this process is not time consuming or expensive or a hindrance in any way to my functioning as a business. I have also found that by taking photos of jewelry I have helped local and county police to identify stolen merchandise, and aided in their investigation of the theft. Without this tool of photographs, I believe police will be hindered in their work, and that victims will have less of a chance of recovering stolen jewelry. To say HB 4011, Section 2 is a consumer protection bill is laughable at best.

Let us help police do their work by requiring all purchases of jewelry have a photograph. I urge you to delete section 2 of this bill, or whatever section it eventually is in. Pawnbrokers should have to abide by the same rules that my business must. In the name of consumer protection, victim relief, and more efficient police investigations I ask that the ability of cities and counties not be infringed upon by keeping this section of bill 4011 intact.

Sincerely,

David Nelkin
Owner, Eugene Coin and Jewelry

February 19, 2014

Senator Chip Shields, Chair
Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection
Senator Larry George, Vice-Chair
Senator Herman Baertschiger, Jr.
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Senator Floyd Prozanski

RE: HB 4011A - Opposition

I am writing in strong objection to the passage of the above bill that is currently in front of the Oregon State Legislature. On January 14, 2014, I left my home in Eugene, Oregon for an appointment. I was gone from 2:30 PM to 3:15 PM. When I returned home after this brief appointment, I found that our home had been burglarized and over \$60,000 worth of jewelry, valuables, cameras and electronics had been stolen. The house had been ransacked and a mess was left for us to clean up.

The Eugene Police Department (EPD) was able to come to our home at 7:30 PM that evening and take a report. I was contacted by a detective from the EPD within a few days and I provided a complete list of all the items that had been stolen. I also obtained the names of local pawnshops that purchased jewelry from individuals. I made up flyers listing my stolen items in detail and left them with the various pawnshops. Out of the fifteen stores I visited, only one store refused to take a flyer from me. The burglary happened on a Tuesday and I had the flyers in the stores on that Saturday.

In a week, I checked back, in person, with the stores where I had left flyers and asked if any of my items had shown up. Later that afternoon, one of the stores called me and said they had purchased one of the rings on my list of items. I went to the store, identified the item, and relayed the information to the detective at EPD. He was able to visit the pawn shop, determine the seller of the item and trace him. In investigating the seller, it turned out he had purchased the ring from a woman who sold a number of my items to a pawnshop in Springfield. The detective was able to obtain the photo that that pawn shop took when the items were purchased. The photo allowed me to determine that these were indeed my pieces of jewelry. If the pawnshop had not been required to take a photo of the purchased items, and forward it to the database in Lane County where these items are reported, I would never have known what happened to my jewelry. This was a huge loss to me; my wedding rings and a number of inherited pieces of valuable jewelry were stolen. Beside the sentimental loss of these items, there is a significant financial loss as well. To date, only two of the items have been recovered.

The requirement to photograph purchased items is essential. This is one of the very few ways that stolen items can be tracked. It appears that a large number of home burglaries are committed by thieves who are in search of items to convert to cash for drugs. Unless there is some way to know what is sold to a pawnshop or metals buyer, there is no way to track the many items that are stolen in Lane County every day. I would ask that you vote against this piece of legislation; it simply allows criminals to have an easier way to dispose of stolen property in Lane County. If the items are not photographed, there is virtually no way to track the items sold by an individual.

Sincerely,
Carole Thatcher
Eugene Resident

February 19, 2014

Senator Chip Shields, Chair
Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection
Senator Larry George, Vice-Chair
Senator Herman Baertschiger, Jr.
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Senator Floyd Prozanski

RE: HB 4011A – Letter in Opposition

Chair Shields and members of the committee:

I am the owner of North Star Coin and Jewelry, located in Springfield, Oregon. As a second hand dealer in Lane County I use the Northwest Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID) to upload pictures of jewelry items I purchase, so they may be monitored by Law Enforcement to help build criminal cases and return items to crime victims.

I am sending this email in regards to House Bill 4011A that is being reviewed by your Senate consumer protection committee. I believe this bill has been put forward by Pawn Brokers and the Pawn Broker Association to exempt Pawn Brokers from having to take pictures of the jewelry items pawned by customers and reporting them to this type of database.

As a committee interested in consumer protection, you should be pushing for a bill that requires pawn brokers to report pictures of pawned items rather than this bill. Criminals will figure out they have a lesser chance of being caught for their crimes if they pawn an item rather than sell it. It will also make it more difficult for the police to build cases against criminals and return property to the rightful owners. This bill ends up helping criminals rather than protecting consumers.

I am in opposition to House Bill 4011A and strongly encourage you to vote against it.

Sincerely,

Jeff Thurn

BERGER Randy D <Randy.D.Berger@ci.eugene.or.us>

February 18, 2014 3:40 PM

To: "Elizabeth@howePA.com" <Elizabeth@howePA.com>, GARDNER Lisa A <Lisa.A.Gardner@ci.eugene.or.us>, LOWEN Matt R <Matt.R.Lowen@ci.eugene.or.us>

Cc: BERGER Randy D <Randy.D.Berger@ci.eugene.or.us>

FW: Emailing: PropertyPicture.jpg

2 Attachments, 98 KB

Transaction Details			
Jurisdiction	LaneCoOR	Date	2/15/2014
Type	Pawn	Time	5:02 PM
PAWN SHOP #3			
Customer Information			
image not available			
Last Name	[REDACTED]	Birth Place	
First Name	[REDACTED]	Gender	Female
Middle Name	[REDACTED]	Height	5 feet 4 inches
Suffix	[REDACTED]	Weight	161
Alias	[REDACTED]	Eye Color	Hazel
D.O.B.	[REDACTED]	Hair Color	Blonde
Vehicle Make	[REDACTED]	Vehicle Model	
Race White			
Facial Hair			
Build			
Distinguishing Characteristics			
Employer Name			
Vehicle Color			
Customer Fingerprints			
image not available			
Finger Type			
Customer Signatures			
image not available			
Ownership Declaration			
Residence		Identification	
Address 1	[REDACTED]	Driver	[REDACTED]
City	EUGENE		
State	Oregon		
Home Phone	[REDACTED]		
	Zip		
	[REDACTED]		
Customer's Employer		Dealer Information	
Name	[REDACTED]	Dealer Name	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]	Address	[REDACTED]
City	[REDACTED]	City	Eugene
State	[REDACTED]	State	Oregon
Zip	[REDACTED]	Comments	
		Phone Number	[REDACTED]
		License	[REDACTED]
		Employee Name	[REDACTED]
		Ticket Number	815453
		Receipt Number	1783
		Transaction Source	RAPID Dealer Reporting Site
		Transaction ID	3980754
Transaction Items			
Classification	Jewelry	Quantity	1
Sub-Class	Earrings	Value	[REDACTED]
Manufacturer		Total-Price	[REDACTED]
Model		Size/Year	
Serial / VIN		Gender	
Vehicle Reg State ID		Vehicle Title Number	
		Markings	
		Item Description	EARRINGS JEWELRY; 2 sets
			14kyg earrings
		Item Number	7577157
		Condition	
		Item Picture	
Investigative Comments			



BERGER Randy D <Randy.D.Berger@ci.eugene.or.us>

February 18, 2014 3:34 PM

To: "Elizabeth@howePA.com" <Elizabeth@howePA.com>, GARDNER Lisa A <Lisa.A.Gardner@ci.eugene.or.us>, LOWEN Matt R <Matt.R.Lowen@ci.eugene.or.us>

Cc: BERGER Randy D <Randy.D.Berger@ci.eugene.or.us>

Emailing: PropertyPicture.jpg

2 Attachments, 101 KB

Transaction Details			
Jurisdiction Springfield	Date 2/13/2014		
Type Buy	Time 1:45 PM	PWN SHOR 4	
Customer Information			
image not available			
Last Name [REDACTED]	Birth Place	Race White	Facial Hair
First Name [REDACTED]	Gender Female	Build	Distinguishing Characteristics
Middle Name [REDACTED]	Height 5 feet 6 inches		
Suffix	Weight 201		
Alias	Eye Color Blue		
D.O.B. [REDACTED]	Hair Color Brown	Employer Name	Vehicle Color
Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model		
Customer Fingerprints			
image not available			
Finger Type			
Customer Signatures			
image not available			
Ownership Declaration			
Residence			
Address [REDACTED]	Identification [REDACTED]		
City EUGENE	Driver		
State Oregon			
Zip [REDACTED]			
Customer's Employer		Dealer Information	
Name	Dealer Name [REDACTED]	Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Address	License	Employee Name	[REDACTED]
City	Address [REDACTED]	Ticket Number	1520199
State	City Springfield	Receipt Number	270
Zip	State Oregon	Transaction Source	RAPID Dealer Reporting Site
	Comments	Transaction ID	3975678
Transaction Items			
Classification Jewelry	Quantity 1	Markings	
Sub-Class Scrap Jewelry	Value	Item Description	
Manufacturer NA	Total-Price [REDACTED]	SCRAP JEWELRY NA na, #na,	
Model na	Size/Year	10KT, 35.60 Grams; 10kyg	
Serial / VIN na	Gender	broken bracelet & three rings,	
Vehicle Reg State ID	Vehicle Title Number	Metal YELLOW GOLD	
		Item Number	7567041
		Condition	
		Item Picture	
Investigative Comments			

