

CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

555 Liberty St. SE / Room 130 • Salem, OR 97301-3513 • (503) 588-6123

February 19, 2014

Chair Chip Shields
Senate Committee on General Government
Consumer and Small Business Protection
900 Court Street SE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Shields,

I am writing to express my concerns about HB 4011-A and the negative impact it could have on our efforts to safeguard the property rights of our citizens. This past fall the City of Salem rewrote our ordinance dealing with pawn transactions and filed it with the Secretary of State's Office, as provided by law, so that we could require photographs of all precious metals transactions. Previously, we found that written descriptions of jewelry were missing sufficient detail for us to match it to a report of stolen property.

In 2012 the passage of HB 4108 greatly assisted law enforcement in stemming the rampant metal thefts that we were experiencing. The statute leveled the playing field between second hand dealers and pawnbrokers who dealt in precious metal transactions and reduced the trade of stolen property.

HB 4011-A would create an advantage for pawnbrokers over secondhand dealers by excluding pawn transactions from the precious metals photograph requirement. The mere fact that the item was bartered in a pawn transaction does not make it anymore less likely to be a stolen item. We regularly recover stolen items from pawn transactions just as we do from secondhand transactions. Furthermore, we are concerned about pawn transactions that become a secondhand transaction if the pledger does not redeem the pawned item.

Our ability to require photographs of all precious metal transactions is critical in our efforts to recover and return stolen property and to hold those responsible for the crime accountable.

I ask you respectfully to reject HB 4011-A.

Sincerely,



Gerald Moore
Chief of Police