

BRIAN J. BOQUIST
STATE SENATOR
District 12

OREGON STATE SENATE

February 27, 2020

Senate Rules Committee
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 98301

Committee Members:

HB 4107A is up for work session on Friday. It does have bipartisan support with the A19 after discussions with Representative Noble.

Understand, there may be another technical amendment which if not changing the intent still leaves the bill with bipartisan support.

The cash issue is not about banking. It is about public safety. When the internet or power grid collapses from a natural disaster or manmade attack or cyber attack or simply fails from overload the resulting outage could last months. The inability of citizens caught by surprise or unprepared who seek consumer goods after-the-fact could result in a complete melt down of civil society. One prevention method is to ensure cash purchases are an option under the law. While not perfect this option could be helpful to maintaining calm thus avoiding potential civil unrest.

You noted my use of 'when' in the previous paragraph. We are all planning for a Cascadia in the future. We are all aware our power grid is aged thus subject to failure and overload. We should now all be fully aware a pandemic like the coronavirus can be a reality in days not weeks.

HB 4107A like other important bills can be passed in the last day or two of a session just like we have done for decades.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Boquist
Oregon State Senator