

BRIAN J. BOQUIST
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 12



OREGON STATE SENATE

February 28, 2021

SB 363 Info Hearing Submission

Honorable Members
Senate Committee
on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court Street NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Senators:

Oregon just exited a historic ice storm that left nearly one-half million Oregonians without power for more than a week. Our own home power was out for more than twelve days. The internet failed citizens and legislators alike as expected.

Your Committee passed SB 651 in 2019 down to Joint Ways and Means to ensure Oregon's old analog emergency broadcast systems was up to date to meet any disaster head on delivering critical information to citizens. It died. And Oregon's systems failed this month because we failed to act as even NOAA's communications failed in Portland. We ourselves got our emergency communications on a battery radio from broadcasts from the Oregon Coast into the Willamette Valley.

Oregon Broadcasters asked for help in 2019 to be prepared to save lives. Counties asked for help. Citizens asked for help. It never came from the legislature. They are back in this Session after the stark reminder of fires, ice storms and pandemics this past year asking for your help to be prepared to serve Oregonians.

You are kindly requested to forward their request to the Joint Ways and Means Committee a second time before it is too late. Who takes credit does not matter nor does the form from the Committee as we may not have a second chance to be prepared before it is too late.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian J. Boquist

State Senator SD-12