

**From:** Durham, Alessandra <[Alessandra.Durham@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Alessandra.Durham@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 3:35 PM  
**To:** evanjohan <[evanjohan@gmail.com](mailto:evanjohan@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Contact Council <[Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Beazizo, Heidi <[Heidi.Beazizo@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Heidi.Beazizo@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Cash Payments Rule

Good afternoon, Evan –

Thank you for your email addressed to Executive Somers and Councilmember Dunn.

Since this is a legislative item, I am sharing your email with the full council and their chief of staff. This item is scheduled for a public hearing on September 20, 2023.

I have included a link to the Council's website with additional information on this item.

[https://snohomishcountywa.gov/\[2134\]\[Council-Hearings-Calendar\]](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/[2134][Council-Hearings-Calendar])

Thank you,

Alessandra

**Alessandra Durham | Chief of Staff**

[Snohomish County Executive Office](#)

[3000 Rockefeller Ave.](#), M/S 407 | [Everett, WA 98201-4046](#)

O: [425-388-3290](tel:425-388-3290) | C: [425-330-3081](tel:425-330-3081) | [Alessandra.Durham@Snoco.org](mailto:Alessandra.Durham@Snoco.org)

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**From:** Somers, Dave J <[Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 2:35 PM  
**To:** Durham, Alessandra <[Alessandra.Durham@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Alessandra.Durham@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Cash Payments Rule

**From:** Evan Mathiasen <[evanjohan@gmail.com](mailto:evanjohan@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 1:52 PM  
**To:** Dunn, Megan <[Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Somers, Dave J <[Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Rhyne, Paula <[Paula.Rhyne@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Paula.Rhyne@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding the Proposed Cash Payments Rule



CAUTION. This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Council Member Dunn and Executive Somers,

I hope this message finds you both well. As a long-standing community member of Snohomish County, represented by Council Member Dunn, I feel compelled to voice my reservations about Council Member Nehring's proposed ordinance requiring businesses to accept cash for transactions up to \$200.

**Unnecessary Overreach:** Our local government plays a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and interests of its citizens. However, mandating businesses on their method of accepting payments seems an overextension of that role. It might be perceived as dictating operational intricacies of businesses, which traditionally fall outside the purview of governmental oversight.

**Safety and Health Concerns:** The recent global pandemic has highlighted the importance of contactless transactions for both safety and health reasons. Encouraging cash payments, which have been shown to be a potential vector for various contaminants, seems counterintuitive to the recent strides businesses and consumers have taken towards safety.

**Operational Implications for Businesses:** Many businesses, especially newer ones, are designed to be cashless from the ground up. Requiring them to restructure their operations to accept cash may pose undue burdens in terms of infrastructure, security, and accounting.

**Misplaced Priorities:** While it is vital to ensure that all members of our community can access basic services and commodities, the solution might not lie in mandating businesses to revert to older payment methods. Instead, efforts could be directed towards financial education, increasing access to banking facilities, or fostering partnerships with businesses to voluntarily offer diverse payment options.

**Potential for Mismanagement and Fraud:** Cash-based transactions inherently carry risks, including theft, mismanagement, and accounting discrepancies. In a rapidly evolving digital age, steering businesses back to cash might open avenues for these issues.

I deeply respect the intentions behind any proposal aimed at inclusivity and ensuring every community member is catered to. However, I believe it is crucial to weigh the potential repercussions against the intended benefits. I sincerely hope you will not support this ordinance and instead explore alternative avenues that address the core concerns without mandating operational changes for our businesses.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Warm regards,

Evan J Mathiasen  
[evanjohan@gmail.com](mailto:evanjohan@gmail.com)

**From:** Dunn, Megan <[Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:26 AM  
**To:** Contact Council <[Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Snohomish County Business Must Accept Cash Proposal

For the record

**Megan Dunn** | *Snohomish County Councilmember, District 2*  
O: (425) 388-3494 | [megan.dunn@snoco.org](mailto:megan.dunn@snoco.org)  
*Pronouns: she/her/hers*

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**From:** John Peeples <[jethro302@yahoo.com](mailto:jethro302@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 9:03 AM  
**To:** Dunn, Megan <[Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Rhyne, Paula <[Paula.Rhyne@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Paula.Rhyne@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Nehring, Nate <[nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Wiita, Russell <[Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Peterson, Strom <[Strom.Peterson@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Strom.Peterson@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Thompson, Joshua <[Joshua.Thompson@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Joshua.Thompson@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Mead, Jared <[Jared.Mead@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Jared.Mead@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Low, Sam <[Sam.Low@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Sam.Low@co.snohomish.wa.us)>; Cheesman, Darcy <[Darcy.Cheesman@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Darcy.Cheesman@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Snohomish County Business Must Accept Cash Proposal



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Gooooood Morning Snohomish County Council,

I just saw a headline in the Herald about a proposal to require that all SnoCo businesses accept cash for retail transactions. I haven't read the actual article and won't. (I've given the Herald and the Seattle Times a couple of tries, but, I find that they are both so badly ideologically slanted to the Left with no grace for my side of the aisle that I cannot support them any longer. Why should I pay my hard-earned money just to have my nose held below they waterline with not even an ideological snorkel to help me breathe?) But, I can appreciate a headline that appears, at least on the surface, to shine light on a future where our liberties are respected.

This is a rare issue I agree on with Jeannie Kohl-Welles (although for different ideological reasons) and disagree on with Reagan Dunn of my late King Co. county council.

My position is that ALL legitimate governing areas of the county are sufficiently served by enabling and continuing to allow and require continued cash transactions at all SnoCo businesses. No legitimate governing action is served by requiring or even allowing businesses to go cash-free. I see it as a matter of freedom and liberty. What should only matter to you and the county government is that the business track its economic activity for the purposes of your limited taxing authority. That burden should not be transferred to the consumer/patron except as reflected in the total sales price. Similar to my gas tax stance, you get what is rightly yours - the tax revenue - and you don't get what is not rightly yours - knowledge of the consumer's/patron's whereabouts or when-about.

By allowing businesses to go cashless, you inherently impose a back door tracking mechanism that places a specific person at a specific time and place. That may be well and good for the card holder and the contract he made with the card company (or bank if writing a check), but, that's not in imposition a business owner should ever be allowed to make against a patron/consumer/customer.

Further, while you don't think you might go this way in the future, allowing businesses to go cashless puts many more people at risk of retroactively being tracked against their will even when they are not under any accusation of wrong-doing. In other words, I'm all for warrants issued against those who stand accused of breaking the law. But, the burden of proof should always be on the government to proof its case against the accused. The government has no legitimate business ensnaring innocent people in a web of time and place just in case the government has need to track down an accused wrong-doer. That hard and legitimate work must be saved for after the warrant is issued.

Jeannie Kohl-Welles purpose for requiring King Co. businesses to accept cash doesn't hold water for me. Hers is all about pandering to some supposed oppressed group and 'protecting' them against some phantom oppression - businesses. (She can't conceive of the government as an oppressor.) Hers focuses on playing one group of citizens against another. Mine seeks to protect ALL citizens (and, yes, by some extension non-citizens and even illegal aliens) from an illegitimate government overreach into our personal decisions in economic activity. (The illegitimacy being the overreach, not the fact of the need for at least some amount of government, for those among you who would delight in deliberately misconstruing that last line as anti-government. But, to continue that line of thought briefly, it is my belief that LIMITED government IS PRO government and that an overreaching government is actually anti-government. Please think about THAT.)

So, there ya go. Yes. Please do require SnoCo businesses to take cash. But, do it for the right reasons - the decency, respect, and dignity of the liberties of the American people - even if a few others benefit. It's better that a few mooches benefit from a policy as long as at least one citizen (not to mention the millions) is protected from being denied service because he only has cash.

In other news, that 'land acknowledgement' is ridiculous. It is truly pandering to a false sense of shame and is insulting.

And, most important of all, I'm wishing you a thoughtful 9/11 anniversary.

Good day,  
John Peeples  
Everett, Wash.  
[jethro302@yahoo.com](mailto:jethro302@yahoo.com)  
(240) 434-6817

**From:** [Nehring, Nate](#)  
**To:** [Eco, Debbie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Barring Cashless Retailers  
**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:02:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Sincerely,

*Nate Nehring*

Councilman, District 1

Snohomish County Council



3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

Everett, WA 98201-4046

☎: 425.388.3494 ✉: [Nate.Nehring@snoco.org](mailto:Nate.Nehring@snoco.org)

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**From:** DEBORAH BLAKE <wildwood31@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 6:46 AM  
**To:** Nehring, Nate <nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Barring Cashless Retailers



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Saw via a KTTH 770 AM email that "Cashless retailers within unincorporated Snohomish County could soon be barred" and just wanted to say thank you!

Deborah Blake  
Everett

**From:** [Nehring, Nate](#)  
**To:** [Eco, Debbie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cash requirement  
**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:03:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Sincerely,

*Nate Nehring*

Councilman, District 1

Snohomish County Council



3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

Everett, WA 98201-4046

☎: 425.388.3494 ✉: [Nate.Nehring@snoco.org](mailto:Nate.Nehring@snoco.org)

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**From:** Stan Lampinen <[lampstanley@gmail.com](mailto:lampstanley@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:24 AM  
**To:** Nehring, Nate <[nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Cash requirement



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Mr. Nehring,

I want to thank you for your level approach to the issues of today. I appreciate the requirement to keep cash as part of the exchange in our commerce.

Marysville resident

Stan Lampinen

296-793-0193

**From:** [Nehring, Nate](#)  
**To:** [Eco, Debbie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cashless sales  
**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:03:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Sincerely,

*Nate Nehring*

Councilman, District 1

Snohomish County Council



3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

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☎: 425.388.3494 ✉: [Nate.Nehring@snoco.org](mailto:Nate.Nehring@snoco.org)

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**From:** Ron Friesen <[friesenre@gmail.com](mailto:friesenre@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 7:41 AM  
**To:** Nehring, Nate <[nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Cashless sales



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Hi Nate,

I fully support the effort to support cash sales, but for a different reason. The cashless sales system is convenient, but fragile. Power outages and software crashes render these systems useless. So when emergencies or disasters (inevitably) happen, what is the backup plan? It is cash. It is the spare tire in the car. It may not be required all the time, but when needed, we can get out of a jam. The cashless system has no such redundancy.

The \$200 threshold is also a good idea. I also recommend a tie to local COL so the ordinance will last instead of having to revisit as inflation eats at the dollar value.

Thanks for your work and efforts!

Ron

**From:** [Nehring, Nate](#)  
**To:** [Eco, Debbie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Against Cashless  
**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:03:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Sincerely,

*Nate Nehring*

Councilman, District 1

Snohomish County Council



3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

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☎: 425.388.3494 ✉: [Nate.Nehring@snoco.org](mailto:Nate.Nehring@snoco.org)

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**From:** Seth L Cooper <[sethcooperlaw@comcast.net](mailto:sethcooperlaw@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:58 AM  
**To:** Nehring, Nate <[nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Against Cashless



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Dear Councilman Nehring,

Thank you for introducing the proposed ordinance to ban cashless sales under \$200 in the county. That is a pro-consumer measure, and I strongly endorse it. More and more Americans see the value in transactional privacy. And we're alarmed at how we're being hemmed in by credit card and other large financial institutions.

The Lord be with you.

Seth

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**Seth L. Cooper**

Attorney at Law

526 N West Ave PMB 12

Arlington, WA 98223

(425) 285-7447



**From:** [Todd Welch](#)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** Cash under \$200 Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:24:07 AM

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Council-members,

I urge you to not approve an ordinance requiring unincorporated businesses to be required to accept cash for purchases of \$200 or less. I can appreciate Councilman Nehring's idea and his dedication to the people but it is wrong to put a burden on local businesses because someone either doesn't trust banks or is unable to obtain a bank account.

I guess a blunt-way to say it is, Their issues should not be imposed on others. Small businesses struggle as it is and to force them to change their practices is wrong.

thank you,  
Todd Welch  
Everett, WA.