

PRESS RELEASE

Benton County Democratic Central Committee Executive Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2019

[Corvallis, Oregon, July 8] The Benton County Democratic Central Committee Executive Committee has submitted the following letter as testimony to the Senate Special Committee On Conduct expressing concern for the recent actions by Senator Brian Boquist and requesting his removal from the senate and the joint committees he serves on.

Senate Special Committee On Conduct
900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301
scond.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Senator Floyd Prozanski; Senator Tim Knopp; Senator James Manning Jr.; Senator Alan Olsen

Dear Senators Prozanski, Knopp, Manning, and Olsen,

Thank you for quickly addressing the matter of Senator Brian Boquist's recent conduct.

It is with embarrassment that we have to say that Brian Boquist is our Senator. (His District 12 spans much of Benton, as well as parts of Polk, Marion, Yamhill, and Washington Counties.)

It is obvious that Senator Boquist does not respect Oregon government when he chose to abdicate his sworn duty to his constituents by fleeing the state of Oregon, preventing the operation of our Legislature. It is obvious Senator Boquist does not respect Oregon government when he threatened Governor Kate Brown and Senate President Peter Courtney. It is obvious Senator Boquist does not respect Oregon law enforcement when threatened grave bodily harm, or worse, to any Oregon State Troopers that attempted to bring him back to Salem (and thereby, carry out the law and their sworn duties).

One attorney and long-time resident of Corvallis sums up the problem of having people like Senator Boquist in our legislature. We urge you to read it, but we would draw special attention to:

"We rely on our constitutions, state and federal. We rely on the laws we all had a part in adopting, even if we were on the losing side of the debate. We submit to duly authorized law enforcement officials making arrests, even if we know they are not justified and we will ultimately prevail in court.

We do not threaten to kill police officers doing their job." ¹

We, the Benton County Democratic Central Committee Executive Committee, urge the Oregon Senate to do the proper thing, and at a minimum, remove Senator Boquist from the senate and the joint committees he serves on.

We can do better. We urge the Senate Special Committee on Conduct to do the right thing for Oregon and sanction Senator Boquist's lawless and unfit behavior to the fullest of its powers. No one is above the law in Oregon, and the threat of violence must never be allowed to be used as a political tool.

Sincerely,

Benton County Democratic Central Committee Executive Committee

¹(see July 2 Corvallis Gazette Times op-ed at https://www.gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/as-i-see-it-i-am-an-angry-oregonian/article_bb737cd2-9bde-512e-a457-ca9ae0cab81f.html)

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