Some stores accept alternative payments, such as Bitcoins and other crypto-currencies, that benefit both customers and merchants. With the concept of crypto-currencies becoming more popular, some states and the IRS issued new guidelines on virtual currencies. Explore the policy implications these new payment methods present for the states.

**Facilitators:**  
Representative Joe Atkins, Minnesota  
Gary Schaefer, Louisiana Legislature

**Speakers:**  
Matthew Lambert, Conference of State Bank Supervisors, Washington, D.C.  
Jim Harper, Bitcoin Foundation, Washington, D.C.  
Jason Thomas, Thomson Reuters, Virginia

3:30pm—3:35pm  
Opening Remarks and Introductions  
Representative Joe Atkins, Minnesota  
Vice Chair  
Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce Committee

3:35pm—4:50pm  
Speakers’ Remarks

3:35pm—3:58pm  
Matthew Lambert, Conference of State Bank Supervisors, Washington, D.C.

3:58pm—4:24pm  
Jim Harper, Bitcoin Foundation, Washington, D.C.

4:24pm—4:50pm  
Jason Thomas, Thomson Reuters, Virginia

4:50pm—5:00pm  
Discussion and Questions from the Audience  
Gary Schaefer  
Staff Co-Chair  
Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce Committee
Representative Joe Atkins  
State House of Representatives, Minnesota

Joe Atkins is a Minnesota Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party (DFL) member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. First elected in 2002, Atkins chairs the House Commerce and Consumer Protection Policy and Finance Committee. He also is a member of the House Committees on Capital Investment, Energy Policy, and Ways and Means. Atkins authored and passed more bipartisan laws since 2008 than any other Minnesota state representative, including the most significant advances in fire safety laws in 40 years, the Kelsey Smith Act to help find missing children, and guidelines to allow more rigorous K-12 coursework. He is a Vice Chair of the NCSL Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce committee.

Atkins has been practicing law since 1991. He is a partner in the law firm of Thuet, Pugh, Rogosheske & Atkins in South St. Paul, one of Minnesota’s oldest law firms. He also does significant pro bono work for those who cannot afford to hire an attorney. Atkins served as Mayor of Inner Grove Heights in 1992, serving for 10 years to become its longest-serving mayor. He was elected to the Inner Grove Heights School Board in 1987, becoming the youngest school board member in the nation at the age of 21. Atkins earned his B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and his J.D. magna cum laude from the William Mitchell College of Law.

Jim Harper  
Global Policy Counsel  
Bitcoin Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Jim Harper is the Bitcoin Foundation’s Global Policy Counsel. From 2004 to 2014, Harper was director of information policy studies at the Cato Institute, where he remains a senior fellow. A former counsel to committees in both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate, he went on to represent companies such as PayPal, ICO-Teledesic, DigitalGlobe, and Verisign on Capitol Hill. He was a member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee, and he co-edited the book Terrorizing Ourselves: How U.S. Counterterrorism Policy is Failing and How to Fix It. Harper has written several amicus briefs in Fourth Amendment cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and he wrote the book, Identity Crisis: How Identification Is Overused and Misunderstood. Harper holds a J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law.

Matthew Lambert  
Policy Counsel, Director of Legislative Policy  
Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), Washington, D.C.

Matthew Lambert is Policy Counsel at CSBS, where he handles all aspects of policy development and advocates for state financial regulators. In this role, he has led the policy development process for state regulators on a broad range of issues ranging from banking and mortgage lending to payments systems and virtual currency. Matt provides staff support for several inter-state initiatives, including the CSBS Emerging Payments Task Force formed to evaluate changes in the payments landscape. Matt has a B.S. in Commerce
from the University of Virginia and a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law–Newark, where he was a Dean’s Merit Scholar and received the Academic Achievement Award for Corporate Law. He is admitted to practice law in New York and the District of Columbia.

Gary K. Schaefer  
Senate Information Systems Coordinator  
Louisiana Senate, Louisiana  
Gary Schaefer is the Information Systems Coordinator for the Louisiana Senate. Gary began his state/legislative career in 1976 as a student intern with the State Treasurer’s Office Bond Commission division, and then as a full-time employee upon graduating from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Finance. In 1980 Gary went to work for Public Systems Associates, Inc. (PSA) to manage the Senate’s new computer center. In 1999 he returned to state government to work for the Louisiana Senate. In his current role, Gary works with Senate staff and Senators to define and track computer problems and enhancements to resolution. Gary works closely with the Senate Contract Administrator to manage PSA contract requirements and is the Senate coordinator for webcasting all Senate committee meetings and chamber proceedings. Gary previously served as a member of the NCSL Executive Committee, and he currently serves as a Staff Co-Chair of the Communications, Financial Services & Interstate Commerce Standing Committee. Gary received the Legislative Staff Achievement Award from NCSL’s National Association of Legislative Information Technology in 2013.

Jason Thomas  
Chief, Innovation for Thomson Reuters Special Services  
Thomson Reuters, Virginia  
Jason is Chief, Innovation for Thomson Reuters Special Services. He likes to solve national security and intelligence problems through gaming, collective intelligence, social data, virtual environments, and mobile applications.

He is an expert in emerging technology and a professional public speaker known internationally for his popular and informative briefings. He has briefed numerous agencies including the CIA, FBI, DoD, USDOJ, US Senate, US House; and others on the use of technology for illicit purposes. He is an experienced intelligence professional with a solid understanding and real-world experience with terrorism, fraud, money laundering, cybercrime, computer intrusions, and cyber terrorism. His latest assignments include programs involving identity, digital currencies, threat identification and mitigation, mobile applications, data science, virtual environments, collective intelligence, information security and assurance, social data, open-source intelligence gathering, intelligence analysis, digital investigations, forensic accounting, and multiple agency missions.

Jason is the creator and founding director of the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). Within twenty fours after the September 11 terrorist attacks, IC3 was reprogrammed to become the sole Terrorist Tip portal for the US federal government, collecting invaluable open source information. This information was then fused with other intelligence resulting in the prevention of other terrorist attacks inside and outside the United States. In 2002, IC3 won the Excellence.gov award. This award is presented to federal government agencies that demonstrate innovative electronic government initiatives.

Prior to coming to Thomson Reuters Special Services, Jason was faculty at West Virginia University in the International Studies department. Jason was also the Director of the Open Source Intelligence Exchange and Fusion Center (OSIX) and served as the Associate Director of the Center for Intelligence and National Security Analysis (CINSA). Each of these programs has the specific mission of enhancing capability and
competitiveness in disciplines related to open source intelligence collection and analysis. Prior, while employed at the National Cyber Forensics and Training Alliance (NCFTA), Jason provided leadership and subject matter expertise in the area of intelligence collection. Previously, Jason served as the Associate Deputy Director, Operations for the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C).

He is a member of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) Council on Technology and Innovation and serves on the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC) Cybersecurity and Privacy Committee and the NVTC Technology Innovations Committee.

Jason is the recipient of a number of awards including the FBI Director’s Award for Exceptional Service in the Public Interest, the Thomson Reuters Standing Ovation Award, the Thomson Reuters Oval Office Award for Innovation, the NW3C Cynthia Kay Hipsman Award, and was a nominee for the US Attorney General’s Award for Exceptional Service.