



Mayor's Office
Kitty Piercy

February 14, 2011

City of Eugene
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Representative Barnhart, Co-Chair
Representative Berger, Co-Chair
House Committee on Revenue

RE: House Bill 2075 – Taxes on Customer Access to 9-1-1 Emergency Reporting Systems from Prepaid Telecommunications Service Customers

Dear Co-Chairs Barnhart and Berger and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene strongly **SUPPORTS** House Bill 2705, which would establish methods for telecommunications providers to satisfy the requirement to collect and remit tax on customer access to 9-1-1 emergency reporting systems from prepaid telecommunications service customers.

The City of Eugene, as the administrator of a regional 9-1-1 center, supports Oregon APCO/NENA's efforts to require the prepaid wireless industry to support the Oregon 9-1-1 statewide service. The City has long held that the revenue from the 9-1-1 telephone excise tax needs to adequately cover the full local cost of providing this mandated service.

The 9-1-1 telephone tax is essential to the stability of the statewide system for accessing emergency help. We understand clearly that in our area, the majority of calls to 9-1-1 are being made from wireless devices and that many citizens are consolidating their phone services down to a single wireless service. National surveys indicate that the wireless market is shifting towards non-contract/prepaid wireless service. Those using these devices are still able to dial 9-1-1 and efficiently access emergency help.

The public expects our services to mirror the functionality of their regular wireless service. We should expand in the future so that information from text phones, video, and automatic crash notification in cars can be relayed across the 9-1-1 system to dispatchers and first responders. Lack of stable funding for the Oregon 9-1-1 Program will impact our ability to pursue and implement that "Next Generation 9-1-1" technology that many citizens believe is already in place.

The City of Eugene believes that any device capable of accessing 9-1-1 services should be required to help support this system. We therefore respectfully urge your **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2705.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy
Kitty Piercy,
Mayor

MEASURE: HB 2075
EXHIBIT: 5
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 2/14/2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: KITTY PIERCY