



February 14, 2011

Rep. Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair
Rep. Vicki Berger, Co-Chair
House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

MEASURE: HB 2075
EXHIBIT: M
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 2/14/2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: KRISTINA WILDE

Re: House Bill 2075 testimony

Dear Co-Chair Barnhart & Co-Chair Berger and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene supports the passage of HB 2075, which would ensure that the 9-1-1 excise tax is collected from all devices capable of dialing 9-1-1, including pre-paid wireless.

Our regional center, Central Lane Communications, serves over 300,000 citizens. Our local experience has been validating national reports of wireless usage trends. In the course of monitoring our lines over the past two and a half years, we have observed our incoming call patterns shift and have seen more than sixty percent of our 9-1-1 calls come in via wireless devices. We've made changes in our phone system and staffing to better handle those calls, understanding that cell phones are rapidly replacing the wireline home phones of the past. We no longer expect surges of 9-1-1 calls to be primarily drivers on the road reporting the same traffic accident.

The 9-1-1 excise tax is critical to supporting the service in our area and across the state. We need a system that spreads those costs fairly amongst the users of the service. As a greater number of citizens are choosing to go wireless for all of their telephone service and are either considering or choosing pre-paid devices, our ability to sustain access to critical emergency services by dialing 9-1-1 is at risk.

It is both reasonable and equitable, in these times of increased expectations for 9-1-1 access and technology, that we take steps to ensure the system is supported by the very devices used to access the service. The City of Eugene asks for your support in passing HB 2075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristina J. Wilde".

Kristina J. Wilde – Program Manager
Central Lane Communications
Eugene Police Department