



February 7, 2012

City of Eugene
777 Pearl St., Rm 105
Eugene, Oregon, 97401
(541) 971-2208

Senator Boquist, Chair
Senate Committee on Senate Veterans' and Military Affairs

Re: Senate Bill 1560 – Emergency Communications Account

Chair Boquist and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene strongly **SUPPORTS SB 1560** which would designate the Emergency Communications Account as trust account exclusively for emergency communication purposes.

SB 1560 would help protect the Emergency Communications Account and 9-1-1 services by declaring the Legislature's intent to create a contractual obligation of the state to use the Account's funds only for emergency communications purposes and to not transfer funds out of the Account for other uses, except in very limited circumstances. While we understand the challenging budget issues that face the state, any raiding of the dedicated 9-1-1 funds for other purposes leaves a substantial shortfall for 9-1-1 operations.

These funds were established to achieve specific goals. If funds are diverted away from these dedicated purposes to support other initiatives, the original goals established cannot be accomplished effectively. Over the past several quarters, revenue for 9-1-1 services has shown a downward trend. Additionally, the FCC has issued a mandate that 9-1-1 services migrate to an enhanced technology, also known as Next Generation 9-1-1 or NG9-1-1, so that callers may access emergency services through text messaging and other advanced communications capabilities regularly in use outside of public safety. Migration to that enhanced technology may come at a cost that may result in a funding gap – and any diversion of the Account's funds would only magnify that gap.

The protection of dedicated 9-1-1 funds cannot be overemphasized. The City of Eugene appreciates the opportunity to present our position and we respectfully request your **DO PASS** recommendation for **SB 1560**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Wilson
Intergovernmental Relations Manager