

Clackamas Fire District #1

EXHIBIT: 3
2012 SESSION S VETERANS' & MILITARY
AFFAIRS
DATE: 2/14 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Ryan Hari



LC 170

January 17, 2012

Honorable Members of the Oregon House of Representatives,

Some months ago, a question was asked regarding how 9-1-1 excise tax dollars were being used to help fund the local 9-1-1 dispatch center. Pursuit of this simple answer led to the identification of process questions that can be easily solved by the proposed language included in LC 170.

The intent of ORS 403.200 is to collect 75 cents per month on all telephone and cell phone bills and to direct these revenues to all Oregon Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP or 9-1-1 dispatch centers). The funds are to be only used to pay for planning, installation, maintenance, operation of a 9-1-1 emergency reporting system as it relates to getting the call from the member of the public to the primary public safety answering point and in transmitting the information from the primary answering point to the secondary answering point or responding police, fire medical other emergency unit by telephone, radio or computerized means (ORS 403.245).

It is important to understand the distinction between 9-1-1 and dispatch services. The 9-1-1 or PSAP answers the initial 9-1-1 call. Funding for this 9-1-1 answering service is the portion of dispatch services paid for by Oregon rate payers through the 9-1-1 excise tax. On average only 28% of total Oregon PSAP/dispatch center costs are covered by this excise tax revenue. The remaining funding for dispatch services is generally paid through user fees. Oregon law describes a distinct separation of these two services as described in the two state agency letters attached.

Oregon currently has a process whereas cities can send their share of 9-1-1 funds directly to their designated PSAP. Many cities have chosen to do this already. The proposed language included in LC170 simply requires all cities and counties to designate their PSAP so these dedicated funds can be sent directly to their PSAP without complicated biennial audits. LC 170 ensures that these dedicated funds are used for their intended purpose and will allow state government to operate more effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ryan Hari'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Battalion Chief Ryan Hari
Clackamas Fire District #1