



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Charlie Hales, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

March 21, 2013

Representative Greg Matthews, Chair  
House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee  
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room E  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3317

Dear Chair Matthews and Members of the Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee:

The City of Portland requests your support for HB 3317, which reauthorizes the emergency communications tax through January 1, 2022.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC) provides 9-1-1 call answering and dispatch for all police, fire, and emergency medical responders in Multnomah County. This includes the cities of Fairview, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Gresham, and Wood Village. On average, BOEC answers approximately 3000 emergency calls per day and well over 1 million a year.

For over 30 years, the emergency communication tax has provided critical and steady funding to support and implement 9-1-1 services across the state. The continuation of this tax is vital to all of Oregon's 9-1-1 centers, public safety responders, residents and visitors. Without this tax, it would be nearly impossible to fund, implement, and support the necessary equipment and staff required to keep the public safe and respond to emergencies.

In Multnomah County, BOEC receives approximately \$3.78 million annually in revenue from the emergency communications tax to provide efficient and effective emergency communications services to our community. Without these resources our ability to respond to emergency calls and protect the public would be severely hampered.

We respectfully urge your support for reauthorizing the emergency communications tax.

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Steve Novick  
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Nick Fish  
Commissioner