

March 21, 2013

Chair Greg Matthews
House Committee on Veterans' Services and Emergency Preparedness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Matthews and Members of the Committee:

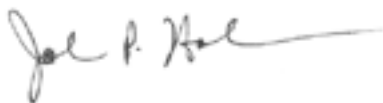
On behalf of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, OFCA, we are pleased to submit this testimony in support of HB 3317. HB 3317 would extend the current sunset on the Emergency Communications Tax to 2022. Currently, the "911" tax is set to sunset in January of 2014.

Funds collected via the Emergency Communications Tax are an important part of the funding necessary to provide 911 emergency services for Oregonians. However, it is important to note that under our current structure, the funds collected from the 911 tax only cover approximately 20-30% of the actual costs of the system in any given community. The remainder of the system has to be funded locally – a challenge in our current economic environment.

All Oregonians count on their call being answered and responded to when they dial 911 in an emergency. Insuring that the funding that is currently being provided to support these services remains in place is a first step in providing more security and sustainability to the 911 system overall for everyone's safety statewide.

We ask for your support of HB 3317.

Thank you for your consideration.



John Nohr
President, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Deputy Chief, City of Portland Fire & Rescue