



OREGON FIRE DISTRICT  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

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**Testimony before the House Revenue Committee  
In Support of HB 3317  
April 3, 2013  
Genoa Ingram**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) was formed in 1950 and serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts. They serve without compensation.

The OFDDA is the voice for these fire protection districts, most of which are small rural districts operating on an all-volunteer basis or with minimal paid positions, usually an office administrator and/or a Chief. **This legislative session, preserving and strengthening 9-1-1 funding is our chief priority.**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association is one of the requestors of HB 3317 because we believe it is absolutely crucial that the legislature extend the 9-1-1 tax to continue funding of Public Safety Answering Points and insure that calls result in the most expeditious dispatch of emergency response. Obviously, the public safety community would prefer no sunset on the tax at all, in order to provide more stability and long range planning ability. However, if that is not the will of the Committee, then we support an extension of *at least* eight more years to the year 2022.

OFDDA also would like to take the opportunity to urge the Committee to address the inclusion of prepaid cellular phones as quickly as possible, to help offset the additional demand placed on the 9-1-1 system due to increased cellular usage. As we previously testified on March 14 before this Committee, wireless calls to 9-1-1 account for over half of all 9-1-1 calls nationwide, with some of jurisdictions reporting that wireless calls represent 70%-80% of their 9-1-1 call volume. And, while most cellular customers pay their fair share, customers using pre-paid cell phones, which also regularly access 9-1-1 (at no charge), are not. We ask that the legislature enact a policy that will treat all cellular customers fairly and equitably and not ask some to pay the costs for a service that is available to all.

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association thanks you for the opportunity to be heard on this vital issue and urges passage of HB 3317.

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