



April 2, 2013

Representative Barnhart, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support of HB 3317- Extension of 9-1-1 Tax and Prepaid Wireless Tax Collection

Dear Chair Barnhart and Members of the Revenue Committee,

As Mayor of Beaverton and president of Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency Board, public safety is one of my top priorities. On behalf of the city and the Agency, I would like to express our strong support for HB 3317 which will help sustain a needed source of funding for emergency services crucial to public safety statewide.

The 9-1-1 emergency services tax provides critical backing for Oregon's 9-1-1 emergency reporting system. This tax supports the system's overall effectiveness by financing maintenance, operational and improvement costs. The continuation of this tax is crucial to public safety.

Washington County Consolidated Communication Agency (WCCCA) delivers 9-1-1 service and public safety communications for police, fire and emergency medical service for Beaverton and other participating jurisdictions. The Agency relies on the 9-1-1 tax as a significant funding source. WCCCA is open to answer 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls from Washington County residents at all hours on all days. In 2012, the agency received 48,511 wire line 9-1-1 calls and 87,210 wireless calls, totaling 135,721 calls.

The population WCCCA serves has grown considerably over the past 10 years and additional growth is expected. It is therefore critical that the 9-1-1 tax be extended to support the agency's financial needs so that it can continue to meet this service demand.

While most telecommunications users pay the 9-1-1 tax, prepaid cell phone users and voice over internet users do not. With nearly two-thirds of WCCCA's 9-1-1 calls coming from wireless phones, we believe it is especially important to ensure that all wireless customers that have access to our service pay their fair share.

For all of these reasons, I urge your support for HB 3317.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denny Doyle
Mayor