

Baker County Consolidated Dispatch



3410 K Street
Baker City, OR 97814

(541) 523-6415
Fax (541) 523-9531

Sheila Thompson, Director

April 2, 2013

In reference to House Bill 3317:

On behalf of the Baker County Consolidated 911 Dispatch (BCCD), I am asking your support to reauthorize the 9-1-1 Telephone Tax. BCCD provides 9-1-1 call answering and dispatch services to all of the police, fire and medical responders, for the citizens of Baker County, along with the seasonal visitors to Baker County.

The 9-1-1 Tax has provided critical funding to support and implement 9-1-1 services to all of Oregon. In today's world, Oregon's 9-1-1 Centers are facing challenges of the rapidly changing technology. The various ways in which to access 9-1-1 either today or in the future, all present their own unique set of issues; VoIP (Voice over internet Protocol), devices which will allow people to dial 9-1-1 from their PDA, pagers, etc, all with the expectation that their call will be routed to the correct 9-1-1 center, with their location information attached; however, today, this is not the case. As more and more technology emerges, it is critical that we are able to keep up for the next several years to implement and support the necessary equipment required to perform these essential tasks.

Yearly, Baker County receives about 30 percent of its annual operating budget from this tax for its 9-1-1 center, which is estimated to be approximately 300,000 dollars this year. The need for the service that this tax provides will not go away. People will always need emergency services.

The 9-1-1 program has demonstrated its value, particularly in rural Oregon. On behalf of the County of Baker, I ask for your support in this bill to extend the emergency communications tax.

The County of Baker joins Oregon APCO/NENA and the Public Safety Answering Points across Oregon in support of legislation to require the prepaid wireless phone industry to support the Oregon 9-1-1 Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Thompson
Baker County Consolidated 911 Dispatch, Director
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