



May 2, 2013

Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair
Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3317-A — Extension of 9-1-1 Tax and Prepaid Wireless and VoIP Tax Collection

Dear Co-Chair Winters and Co-Chair Williamson and Members of the Subcommittee:

As the Mayor of Beaverton and president of the Washington County Consolidated Communication Agency Board, one of my top priorities is public safety. I strongly support HB 3317-A. The bill will help sustain a needed source of funding for emergency services which are critical for public safety statewide. Also, I strongly support the bill's collection of emergency communication taxes for pre-paid wireless and VoIP devices, bringing equity to the market.

Washington County Consolidated Communication Agency (WCCCA) relies on the 9-1-1 tax as a significant funding source. The Agency delivers 9-1-1 service and public safety communications invaluable to police, fire and emergency medical service for Beaverton and other participating jurisdictions.

WCCCA is open to answer 9-1-1 calls from Washington County residents at all hours on all days. Last year, 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 is expected to continue to increase. For the agency to continue to meet our community's service demand, it is critical that the 9-1-1 tax be extended to support the agency's financial needs.


While the majority of telecommunications users pay the 9-1-1 tax, many prepaid cellphone 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.

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 the tax is crucial to public safety.

Approximately 30 percent of the total budget of each agency's 9-1-1 services stems from the state 9-1-1 tax. If this tax is not extended, Oregon's primary public safety answering points will have about nine months to obtain alternate funding for 9-1-1 or decrease the current level of services being provided to Oregon's citizens.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support HB 3317-A.

Respectfully,


Denny Doyle
Mayor