



**Curry County
Board of Commissioners**

David Brock Smith, *Chair*

94235 Moore Street, Suite 122
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541-247-3296, 541-247-2718 Fax
800-243-1996 www.co.curry.or.us

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Dear Chair Garrett and Rules Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon regarding HB 3453 .

I would like to also thank this committee, the governor and state legislators for their assistance. As a direct extension of the State of Oregon, counties play a vital role in the overall health and welfare of the citizens of the state. To that end we are here today to work together towards that goal as healthy counties support a healthy State of Oregon. There have been a number of amendments presented to this committee regarding HB 3453. When we discuss consolidation of services and inter-governmental agreements, we must remember that counties, such as Curry, are a direct extension of the State of Oregon and any agreements must be crafted with the Board of Commissioners as the county governing body authority. Furthermore, the sovereignty and constitutional authority of the Sheriff and the Board of Commissioners must be preserved. To that end, an effort of the consolidation of duplicated services should be a factor within any intergovernmental agreements negotiated for the best interest of the citizens and as long as said agreements do not jeopardize the sovereignty and constitutional authority of the Sheriff and Board of Commissioners as direct extensions of the State of Oregon. For example, Curry County owns the communication towers associated with 911 communications throughout the county, has a secured 911 dispatch center and trained personnel. This service is duplicated for the City of Brookings in south county which provides its own 911 dispatch for the city and a limited number of surrounding districts. This duplication of service has caused a split in the 911 fees from the citizens and the state paid to the county to fund its' communication services. The city is in no way capable physically or financially to take on 911 dispatch communication services for the entire county. Whereas, Curry County is physically capable, having the necessary infrastructure, and would be financially capable if consolidation of this service would occur, thusly receiving the existing fees already collected that would stay at the county and would not be distributed to the city. This consolidation would also save the citizens money not only in the Brookings community but throughout the county.

Aside from the aforementioned consolidation any other such agreements should be temporary, be negotiated by and have approval of the majority of the Board of Commissioners with

consultation of the Sheriff. Once the Board of Commissioners and Sheriff can show that adequate levels of funding for law enforcement services exist, said agreements will be terminated if it is shown to be in the public's interest by the county governing body.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address this important legislation and for your consideration of our suggestions. I would be more than happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

David Brock Smith, Chair
Curry County Board of Commissioners