



MEASURE: HB 2035
 EXHIBIT: M
 HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
 DATE: 3-14-2013 PAGES: 1
 SUBMITTED BY: S. J. WILSON

Position Statement
9-1-1 Consolidation, Prepaid Cell Phones, Emergency Communications Tax
Extension & Diversion of 9-1-1 Funds

Subject to revision. March 13, 2013

We represent the managers, operators, and users of the 9-1-1 system that helps insure the safety of Oregon's citizens on a daily basis.

We see the need for increased funding for 9-1-1 services; funding has not kept up with needs and has placed a stress on the system that is detrimental to individuals in need. Oregon is one of 7 states that decided to divert 9-1-1 funds in order to pay for budget shortfalls. We believe that 9-1-1 collected funds should be dedicated solely to the 9-1-1 system for the protection of the citizens of this state. Diminishing these Emergency Communications Tax Funds away from their stated purpose will create an increasingly unstable 9-1-1 system at the local level and may ultimately jeopardize the integrity of the entire emergency response system.

We support the extension of the current Emergency Communications Tax (the "9-1-1 Tax") at the \$.75 per month level, which is assessed currently. Filed legislative concepts call for the extension of this tax through January 2026 and clarify the inclusion of pre-paid cellular devices under this statute. The Oregon Department of Justice, Legislative Counsel and the Oregon Department of Revenue concur that pre-paid cellular devices are included in the Emergency Communications Tax and collection of those funds should begin immediately in order to support the 9-1-1 system that is being utilized on behalf of those consumers on a daily basis. We support these legislative concepts and the overall strengthening of the 9-1-1 system via extension and clarification of the Emergency Communications Tax for the benefit and safety of all Oregonians.