



March 13, 2013

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

**RE: House Bills 2035, 2036, 2415, 2454, 2496 –
relating to 9-1-1 emergency communications tax and reporting system**

Dear Chair Barnhart and Members of the 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 2035, 2036, 2415, 2454 and 2496. These bills would 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.

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. Your support is needed for HB 2035 and 2496 to extend this tax.

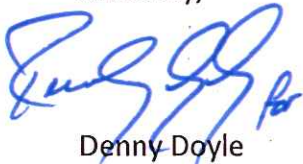
While most telecommunications users pay the 9-1-1 tax, prepaid cell phone users and voice over internet users do not. With nearly two-thirds of WCCCA's 9-1-1 calls coming from wireless phones, we believe it is especially important to ensure that all wireless customers that have access to our service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

HB 2036, 2415 and 2454 would help resolve this inequity while securing needed funding. HB 2454's requirement of imposing a point of sale collection of a 9-1-1 tax would help collect the tax from prepaid cell phone users. HB 2036 and 2415 would close loopholes and ensure equal contributions to the Emergency Communications Account from all customers, including but not limited to prepaid phone users and voice over internet users.

This would help support the long-term stability and viability of the system and minimize the potential impact to the Emergency Communications Account by customer changes in the telecommunications industry. These bills would also allow the State, local PSAPs including WCCCA, to plan and budget more effectively. Any negative impacts by changes in customer demographics would be minimized.

For all of these reasons, I urge your support for HB 2035, 2036, 2415, 2454, 2496 in the interest of public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Denny Doyle".

Denny Doyle
Mayor