



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

March 14, 2013

Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland requests your support for HB 2035, which reauthorizes the emergency communications tax through January 1, 2026.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC) provides 9-1-1 call answering and dispatch for all police, fire, and emergency medical responders in Multnomah County. This includes the cities of Fairview, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Gresham, and Wood Village. On average, BOEC answers approximately 3000 emergency calls per day and well over 1 million a year.

For over 30 years, the emergency communication tax has provided critical and steady funding to support and implement 9-1-1 services across the state. The continuation of this tax is vital to all of Oregon's 9-1-1 centers, public safety responders, residents and visitors. Without this tax, it would be nearly impossible to fund, implement, and support the necessary equipment and staff required to keep the public safe and respond to emergencies.

In Multnomah County, BOEC receives approximately \$3.78 million annually in revenue from the emergency communications tax to provide efficient and effective emergency communications services to our community. Without these resources our ability to respond to emergency calls and protect the public would be severely hampered.

We respectfully urge your support for reauthorizing the emergency communications tax.

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
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