



February 4, 2014

Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair  
House Committee on Revenue

RE: HB 4080 and HB 4055 - Support

Chair Barnhart and members of the committee:

The City of Eugene supports the inclusion of a 9-1-1 service tax on pre-paid wireless plans, and is agnostic to the method. The 9-1-1 telephone tax is essential to the operation of the Emergency Communications Centers in our State. Central Lane 9-1-1 Center, administratively operated by the City of Eugene, serves over 90% of Lane County. The money our emergency center receives is essential to its overall functionality.

HBs 4080 and 4055 address the rapidly growing market of pre-paid wireless plans. Currently, wireless contract plans are covered under the existing tax, however, there is a growing shift in market share toward pre-paid plans that are not subject to the same tax for services that the consumers of such plans have equal access to. For this reason, the City of Eugene is in support of updating the existing tax and the inclusion of millions of dollars not currently accessible to the State for services already provided. These funds are needed not only to support the basic operations of our 9-1-1 Centers, but also to keep up with industry advances including Next Generation technology.

Your support of including pre-paid wireless plans in the 9-1-1 tax will bring the most revenue to local governments for the operation of our Public Safety Answering Points. We cannot compromise this service that is critical to our citizens.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Doug Mozan  
Eugene Police, Operation Support Division