



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

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

February 26, 2014

Senator Ginny Burdick, Chair
Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room A
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4055A

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee:

The City of Portland requests your support for HB 4055, which closes the loop hole on the emergency communications tax for prepaid cellular telephones and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service.

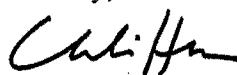
The City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC) provides 9-1-1 call answering and dispatch for all police, fire, and emergency medical responders in Multnomah County. This includes the cities of Fairview, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Gresham, and Wood Village. On average, BOEC answers approximately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

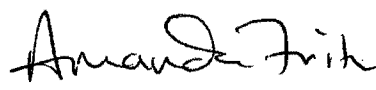
Prepaid cellular telephones can access emergency communications services, but are generally not remitting emergency communications taxes like landline and post-paid cellular telephones. This is significant because prepaid telephones represent approximately a 20% market segment of the overall cellular telephone market; and that segment is growing quickly.

For several years now local 9-1-1 call centers have struggled to meet increasing demands for service. This is due in part to the fact that a significant and increasing number of calls originate from prepaid telephones that do not contribute emergency communications taxes to support 9-1-1 services across the state. Closing the loophole for prepaid telephones and VoIP service will greatly enhance our ability to respond to emergency calls and protect the public.


We respectfully urge you to take action this session to close the emergency communications tax loophole for prepaid cellular telephones and VoIP service.

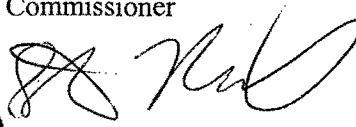
Sincerely,


Charlie Hales
Mayor


Amanda Fritz
Commissioner


Nick Fish
Commissioner


Dan Saltzman
Commissioner


Steve Novick
Commissioner