



*OREGON COMBINED CHAPTERS OF:
The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) &
National Emergency Number Association (NENA)
PO Box 2024 – SALEM, OR 97308-2024*

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April 14, 2015

Phil Barnhart, Chair
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900 Court St., NE
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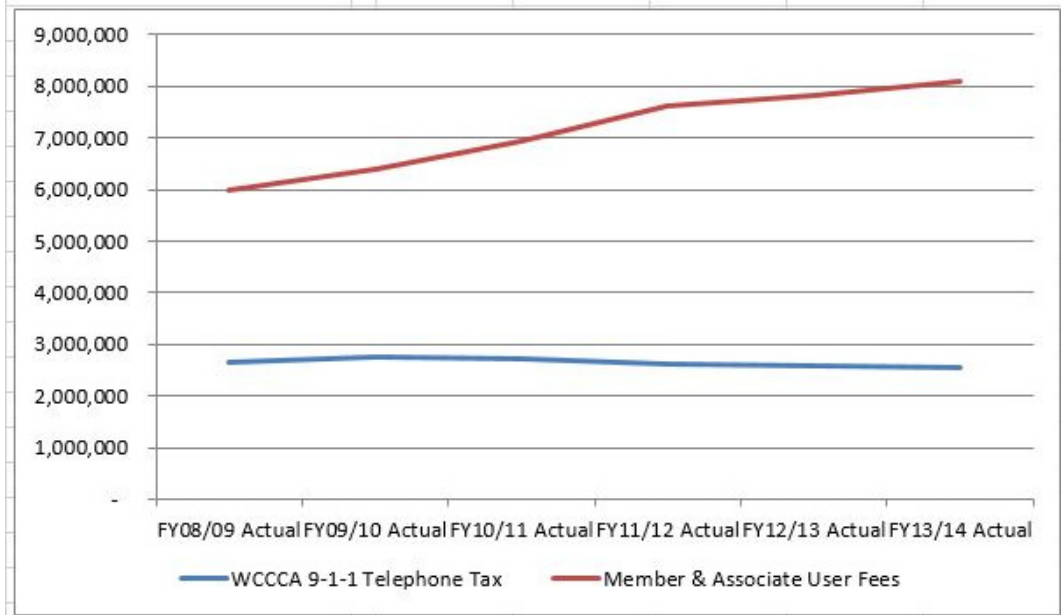
RE: Support for HB 2351

Chair Barnhart, Members of the Revenue Committee:

The Oregon Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and National Emergency Number Association represents all of the 9-1-1 centers in Oregon. Each of our centers rely on the 9-1-1 tax to help ensure basic operations and 24 hour coverage to answer emergency calls from all of our citizens and visitors.

Thousands of calls are answered each day in Oregon and we are continually seeing new ways that businesses, citizens and visitors are expecting to contact our public safety partners via the 9-1-1 system. Some basic examples include automatic notification from vehicles involved in accidents to alarm companies wanting to send data directly into our computer systems to the hearing impaired community wanting to access 9-1-1 via text messaging. Currently we are unable to accept any of these methods in Oregon.

On average, the 9-1-1 tax in our state covers less than 30% of the operational needs of our 9-1-1 centers. Oregon APCO/NENA requests your support for HB 2351 which seeks to increase the current 9-1-1 tax. The 9-1-1 tax in Oregon has not kept up with inflation and this bill seeks to rectify this shortfall and provide a necessary inflationary increase in the future. In 1995 the 9-1-1 tax was shifted from a 5% tax to a flat rate of .75 and has remained at that rate for the past 20 years. The cost of operating a consolidated communications center continues to rise based on fixed operational costs and personnel cost. This chart shows revenue received from the 9-1-1 tax and user fees paid by local public safety agencies from the second largest consolidated PSAP in the State:



HB 2351 will help ensure a more sustainable model for our emergency communications needs throughout the state of Oregon. It is important to know that this increase in the tax will not provide 100% funding to all of our 9-1-1 centers, but it will certainly help improve our ability to respond to our communities when they are experiencing the worst day of their lives.

Respectively submitted,

Mark Spross
 OR APCO/NENA Legislative Co-Chair
 Clackamas County Communications