



April 13, 2015

Phil Barnhart, Chair
House Revenue Committee
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

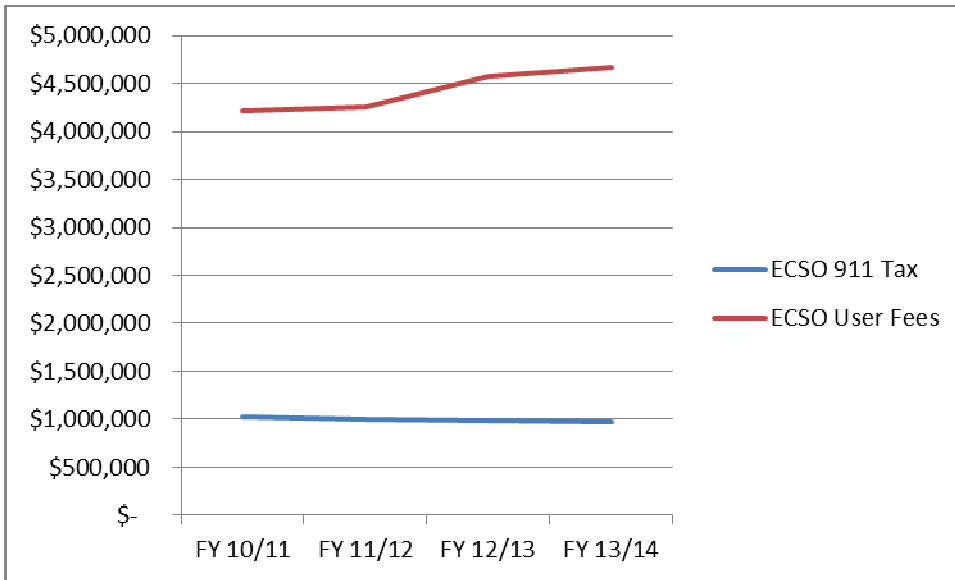
RE: Support for HB 2351

Chair Barnhart, Members of the Revenue Committee:

Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ECSO) is the consolidated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Jackson County, answering all 9-1-1 calls in Jackson County and Crater Lake National Park. We also dispatch all Police, Fire, and Ambulance with the exception of Mercy Flights Ambulance, and Oregon State Police, within Jackson County.

In 2014 we handled 107,100 9-1-1 calls for help, in addition to processing over 200,000 additional non-emergent incoming calls for service.

On average, the 9-1-1 tax in our state covers **less than 16%** of the operational needs of our 9-1-1 center. ECSO is requesting 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. The following chart shows revenue received from the 9-1-1 tax and user fees paid by local public safety agencies in Jackson County.



HB 2351 will help ensure a more sustainable model for the needs of ECSO, as well as throughout the state of Oregon. It is important to know that this increase in the tax will not provide 100% funding of our 9-1-1 center, 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,

Margie Moulin, RPL
 Director, Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon