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1201 Court Street NE, Suite 200 • Salem, Oregon 97301  
(503) 588-6550 • (800) 452-0338 • Fax: (503) 399-4863  
[www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org)

**TO: House Revenue Committee**

**FR: Craig Honeyman, Legislative Director – League of Oregon Cities**

**RE: HB 2351 – 9-1-1 Emergency Reporting System**

**April 14, 2015**

The League of Oregon Cities is presenting this testimony in support of HB 2351. Public safety is job one for local governments. The increase in the 9-1-1 tax rate being proposed in this legislation will provide a strong assist to all partners participating in the state's emergency communications system in keeping up with the cost of running the system and equipping it with the latest and most modern technology.

The current rate (75 cents), which is being proposed to be increased to \$1.25, has been the same since 1995. To the Legislature's credit, additional revenues are now accruing to the 9-1-1 system as a result of the passage of HB 4055 in 2014. This added prepaid telecommunications products and services, including Voice over Internet Protocol, for inclusion in the tax. But the fact remains that only about 30 percent of the costs of running the system are paid for by the tax. Local governments pick up the rest.

The state's emergency telecommunications system is a critical but strained system. Demand and the need for technology improvements are putting pressure on the system that can only be addressed with additional revenue.

HB 2351 will generate significant additional resources and make the citizens of this state that much safer. The League urges passage of HB 2351.