



May 1, 2015

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**HB 2919: Relating to emergency communication taxes**

**Clackamas County supports HB 2919:** The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2919, which eliminates the reporting requirement related to the disclosure of call location information of a cellular device used to call 9-1-1.

This reporting requirement was established during the 2014 legislative session, as part of HB 4022. In addition to requiring cellular service providers to provide location information for wireless phones at the request of a law enforcement agency for emergency purposes, HB 4022 also directed the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to maintain a central database of contact information for cellular service providers. OEM has contracted with a vendor to create this database, and the vendor is authorized to spend \$69,222 from 9-1-1 tax dollars for phase one of the project.

The use of 9-1-1 tax dollars for this purpose is concerning given that funding is needed for Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Next Generation 9-1-1 upgrades, both of which should be a top priority for the State. HB 4022 passed in response to a terrible crime in 2007, in which a wireless carrier took four days to respond to a location identification request related to the murder of Kelsey Smith in Kansas. Oregon PSAPs have an excellent working relationship with wireless carriers and have always found them to be responsive to PSAP needs under emergency circumstances. Because of this climate of cooperation in Oregon, we feel this requirement is unnecessary and a poor use of public safety dollars.

While HB 4022 was certainly symbolic as a result of the tragic crime, it unfortunately created additional workload for Oregon PSAPs who are already struggling with increased demands. In addition, HB 4022 resulted in diverted funds from necessary technology and PSAP support in order to create an unneeded reporting layer.

By eliminating the reporting requirement, this legislation will allow 9-1-1 tax dollars to continue to fund PSAPs and related technology in the State of Oregon. We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2919.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.