



OREGON ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

May 12, 2015

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Broadcasters (OAB), I ask you to vote **yes on House Bill 2210B**, which is an important piece of legislation dealing with emergency preparedness capabilities to protect the public.

Broadcasters play a critical role in emergency response in Oregon. Oregonians depend on the systems broadcasters own and operate to transmit important information to the public in the case of an emergency -- a weather-related emergency, a man-caused emergency or simply working closely with law enforcement officials to protect the public.

The problem has been that, during emergencies, broadcasters sometimes are prevented from reaching their facilities, equipment and other resources needed to stay on the air.

Therefore, the intent of HB 2210B is simple: It is to ensure that broadcasters can stay on the air to transmit emergency information to the public.

Here is what HB 2210B does:

- Defines a First Informer as a trained and credentialed individual who is employed by, or acting pursuant to a contract under the direction of, a broadcaster for the purposes of maintaining, including repairing or resupplying, transmitters, generators or other essential equipment at a broadcast station or facility; or providing technical support services to a broadcaster or to another first informer;
- Allows First Informer access to a geographical area under a declared emergency for the purpose of maintaining and operating broadcast equipment;
- Retains Incident Commander discretion; and
- Identifies organizations responsible for the First Informer credentialing program and the elements of such program.

Oregon's more than 200 radio and television stations spread around the state appreciate your consideration of this bill. We have worked with a number of other organizations - the State Office of Emergency Management, the Association of Oregon Counties, the Oregon Emergency Management Association, the Association of Chiefs of Police, the State Police, the Fire Marshalls, the cable TV industry and the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. There is no opposition to this legislation. The House passed the bill unanimously and the Senate Veterans and Emergency Response Committee passed this bill to the floor unanimously.

Thank you for your attention.

Bill Johnstone
President & CEO
Oregon Association of Broadcasters