

May 5, 2017

Dear Senator Manning:

While fully in support of putting an end to the practice of texting while driving, we the undersigned members of the Valley Radio Club of Oregon – chartered in 1932 and the oldest radio club in the State - believe that **Senate Bill 2's lack of exemption for amateur radio operators using their radios in a moving vehicle is grossly short-sighted and poses a significant threat to emergency communications and emergency response here in Oregon.**

FCC-licensed amateur radio operators' primary use of mobile radios is over a network of repeater stations built and maintained with their own time and money. These stations, typically located at high altitudes, provide coverage over large areas, and on any given day are used to relay travel-related information, reach help when beyond cell service and continually make sure their equipment is in good repair and work together to ensure best practices are used whenever operating.

Oregon lies in the Cascadia fault zone. In the routine course of communicating with one another on a daily basis, amateur radio operators constantly participate in skill maintenance drills and ensure on a daily basis *the proper performance of vital communications equipment* that is critical to the safety of ALL Oregonians in emergencies. In doing so, they are perpetually poised as a primary emergency resource for a Cascadia event (and played a large role during the 2016 FEMA Cascadia Rising exercise). Cascadia preparedness includes deep reliance on that very same network we use in our vehicles every day: well-trained amateur radio operators, mobile amateur radio equipment, and amateur radio repeaters. A *well-trained* operator is well-prepared to provide service to the public in times of emergency, while an untrained (or infrequently-trained) operator is of little use to anyone in time of emergency.

Criminalizing the use of the existing mobile amateur radio infrastructure, *as SB2 does in its current state*, will only serve to decay this **vital** public resource.

Permitting amateur radio operators to continue using their mobile equipment will allow them to remain well-trained and ready to use their microphones *in their vehicles* to serve their communities at a moment's notice.

We ask that you carefully consider the serious (and certainly unintended) consequences of SB2's current language, and **reinstate the exclusion exactly as it exists today:**

(4) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution of a person under this section that the person:

"(h) Holds a valid amateur radio operator license issued or any other license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and is operating an amateur radio;"

Respectfully,

SB2- REINSTATE AMATEUR RADIO EXEMPTION

Signature	Name & Callsign	Email (optional)
	Scott Miller - W7RX	W7RX@outlook.com
	David Cole - N1K7Z	
	Tom Cleveland K276BO	K276BO@thinkvideo.com
	ART GALVEZ W4TAG	W4TAG@YAHOO.COM
	MICHAEL KELLEY W7CN	W7CN@ARRL.ORG
	Richard G. BAYS K07FY	dickbays@yahoo.com
	TIMOTHY DURKIN KEZNE	td1622@GMAIL.COM
	Ross RENFRO AC7KH	AC7KH@ARRL.NET
	Jeffrey A. Hammond	n776@outlook.com
	Scott Rosenfeld N7JI	ars.n7ji@gmail.com
	T.J. Martino AF7WF	tmartinojr@hotmail.com
	Robert Albano K7RNA	RNA@MOSSLIGHT.COM
	Nelson Farrier N7Z	nfarrier@gmail.com
	Benjamin Shapiro	benmshapiro@gmail.com
	LARRY WINESKY	LAWRENCE-WINWASKIE@YAHOO.COM
	George Worthington	gelatinous@juno.com
	Dan Shankle	doc@docShankle.com
	Mary Byrnes	byrnesmc@gmail.com
	ARNOLD R. DILLON W7ARD	W7ARD@MSN.COM
	Aaron Oxenrider W7OXN	W7OXN@huntingoxen.com
	JASON PETORAK - K7JLP	jason.petorak@gmail.com
	William Spalding K7CRA	K7CRA@Yahoo.com
	MICHAEL R. PIPER W4QPC	MRPAPER@Q.COM
	S. RILEY MUEHLAN W7RIL	w7ril@yahoo.com
	SERGIO CHINCHILLA W7SY	W7SY@ARRL.NET
	ALAN GOODMAN K3DWW	ag108@COMCAST.NET
	Peter J. McClusky N7IY	N7IY@ARRL.NET
	STEVE ECCLES K5SLE	steve.eccles99@gmail.com

