



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

EDUCATION • COORDINATION • LEGISLATION

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Statement of Support: SB 661
Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
February 21 – 3:00 pm
Genoa Ingram

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) was formed in 1950 and serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts. They serve without compensation.

The OFDDA is the voice for these fire protection districts, most of which are small rural districts operating on an all-volunteer basis or with minimal paid positions, usually an office administrator and/or a Chief. For all of our rural fire protection districts, both large and small, the preservation of 9-1-1 funds is of the utmost importance.

When consumers pay the 9-1-1 tax on their phones, they have a right to the expectation that those funds will be used to support public safety communications. It is imperative that the 9-1-1 system stay abreast of the ever changing technological landscape and is able to grow and conform to new opportunities that will enable the public safety community to better serve the citizens of Oregon. The fire service believes that the legislature owes to the public a sacred trust to ensure that these funds are used for the purpose for which they were intended, including implementation of “next generation” technology.

As the legislature seeks to attain greater transparency, there is no better place to start than the protection of your constituents. We strongly urge your support of SB 661.