



February 15, 2018

Oregon State Legislature
House Rules Committee
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 4155 Introduced

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

With this testimony, I am sharing my concerns for your consideration, specific to proposed House Bill 4155. I write from the standpoint of the Fire Chief of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Oregon's largest fire district, and as the Chair of Oregon's State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC). As written, this legislation could affect public safety responders' ability to use the national FirstNet public safety broadband network.

Before taking action, I ask that you allow sufficient time for in depth research to ensure nothing in this bill will inhibit our ability to exchange mission critical information during major emergencies and disasters, such as the recent wildfires.

FirstNet is many years in the making. Since conceptual inception, Oregon's fire service and other public safety officials statewide have been strong advocates as it is a dedicated broadband network built and prioritized for public safety users. Subscribing responders can preempt non-emergency traffic in order to get significant quantities of incident information flowing as rapidly as possible – and, far faster and more reliably than we have been able to do until now.

The SIEC and other public safety communications experts worked with Governor Brown and her staff to thoroughly vet the plan for FirstNet in Oregon, before she sanction it. Agencies have already become subscribers and we are counting on this resource for the significant enhancements to our ability to service Oregonians when they need it most.

To reiterate, I urge you not to take action on HB 4155 at this time, to allow for sufficient research and clarification that it will not hamper responders' ability to use the FirstNet public safety broadband network. I stand by ready to work with you on amendments, and to connect you with public safety communications experts who can offer more information.

Respectfully,

Michael R. Duyck, EFO, CFO, MIFireE
Fire Chief