
City of Mill City

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April 12, 2019

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of HB2449

Chair Nathanson, Members of the House Revenue Committee,

The City of Mill City would like to express our support of HB2449. Every person within our state relies upon on the 9-1-1 system. The 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone tax ensures that 9-1-1 centers can answer emergency calls for assistance, an imperative service that the public depends on in their most critical times of need.

Thousands of calls are placed each day to 9-1-1 in Oregon. Community members have an expectation that 9-1-1 operators will answer the call quickly and help them. They expect well trained and capable personnel answering their calls as well as the critical infrastructure to deliver their emergency calls to 9-1-1 centers in a fast, efficient manner.

As with most things, the cost of maintaining the infrastructure capable of delivering emergency calls, in addition to personnel costs, have increased with technological upgrades that allow for enhanced data. The 9-1-1 tax has not been increased since 1995. The cost of doing business for us has increased every single year. It is very clear this must be addressed.

HB2449 seeks to increase the tax to ensure 9-1-1 services can continue to be delivered not only the current level of service, but to upgrade to technology that will allow increased efficiency. This bill will also extend the sunset of the 9-1-1 tax.

The City of Mill City supports Oregon APCO/NENA in their quest to see HB2449 approved, increasing the 9-1-1 tax to \$1.50 and extending the sunset of the tax as well as their request to remove the following provisions from HB2449:

- The provision that provides 2% to counties with a population less than 40,000

Located in the Scenic North Santiam Canyon

The City of Mill City is an equal opportunity provider.

- The amount for Oregon Emergency Management 9-1-1 Program from 4% to 2%
- Reduce the amount collected by the Department of Revenue from 1% to .05%.

We also support the request to add language that would specifically allow interest earned on the 9-1-1 tax to be held in an account to be used for future system upgrades, which will begin the saving that will be necessary for our state's future 9-1-1 needs as it relates to technology and infrastructure buildout and security.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacie Cook". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stacie Cook, MMC
City Recorder

Cc: Cathy Orcutt
File Copy