



April 22, 2019

Representative Nathanson, Chair  
House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE, HR A  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for HB 2449 A**

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

The City of Hillsboro supports HB 2449 A, which will provide needed resources to fund Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) across the state.

Hillsboro and other Washington County cities rely on the Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency (WCCCA) to provide critical dispatch services connecting our first responders to timely, relevant information.

The City's membership dues to WCCCA have increased significantly over the past few years. As the cost of doing business increases and 9-1-1 revenues do not, this gap is absorbed by local police, fire, and public works budgets. In 2018, over \$1,000,000 in WCCCA membership, work order, and maintenance fees were paid out of Hillsboro public safety funds. We expect that number will continue to rise absent needed state action to increase the 9-1-1 tax resulting in increasing pressures on the funding and delivery of public safety services. Therefore, the City strongly supports HB 2449 A, which will help sustain WCCCA and PSAPs across Oregon.

Without action, the City anticipates a decreased level of service and an increase in fees that will have negative impacts on our public safety services. If passed, HB 2449 A would mitigate these concerns and likely lead to substantial service benefits for our residents. It is time to address 9-1-1 funding to ensure PSAPs can keep up with increasing technological and community demands, and continue to provide adequate services that help keep our residents safe in partnership with our first responders.

Thank you for considering this testimony. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Smith'.

Andy Smith  
Government Relations Manager