



9-1-1

LAKE OSWEGO COMMUNICATIONS
Serving the communities of Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, and West Linn

June 18, 2019

Chair Mark Hass
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue 900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB2449-B

Chair Hass and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Lake Oswego Communications (LOCOM) Center provides 9-1-1 call answering and public safety dispatching for 4 agencies serving the communities of Milwaukie, Lake Oswego and West Linn.

LOCOM answers approximately 1700 9-1-1 calls per month, and is extremely dependent on technology and communications infrastructure to process each of these calls. Currently funds distributed from the 9-1-1 tax cover 18% of our operational budget.

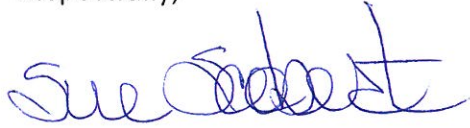
The 9-1-1 program within Oregon Emergency Management has notified me that the 9-1-1 tax no longer has funds to replace equipment that is used in our center today. This cost transfer to the 9-1-1 centers has a direct impact on police, fire and medical emergency service providers and the citizens we all serve. Centers will need to weigh cost increases to user agencies vs. decreasing phone answering positions in the center, or other cost saving strategies: call filtering or queuing of calls. The current funding model makes these difficult choices inevitable.

HB2449-B seeks to raise the 9-1-1 tax by 25 cents on January 1st, 2020, and another 25 cents on January 15, 2021, which will increase the funds available to allow the 9-1-1 emergency communications system to "provide for the continued operation of 9-1-1 and emergency services statewide" (OAR 104-080-0000). The current tax of 75 cents has been in place since 1995 with no increase over the last 24 years.

The increased revenue from HB2449-B will allow for consistent statewide access to emergency services when a call is made to 9-1-1. It will provide a more sustainable funding model for emergency communications infrastructure and staffing throughout the State of Oregon, allowing Telecommunications professionals to provide the quality service citizens deserve when they call 9-1-1.

LOCOM asks for your support of HB2449-B .

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Scobert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "C".

Sue Scobert
Communications Manager
Lake Oswego Communications Center
Lake Oswego Police Department