



**Testimony Before the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee  
Relating to Support of HB 2449 B  
June 18, 2019**

**Submitted by Jim McCauley, Legislative Director League of Oregon Cities**

Chair Hass and Vice-Chair Bentz and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Oregon's 241 cities The League of Oregon Cities is pleased to offer our collective support for HB 2449 B. The funding increase proposed within HB 2449 without question will allow for additional investment into 9-1-1 communications across Oregon. As you know 9-1-1 revenues generated from hardline, and wireless products account for less than 25 percent of the facility operations at the local level in either local government run facilities or the network of Public Safety Answering Point (PSAPs) in Oregon.

The added revenue will help stabilize the operations in communities across Oregon and balance the local funding needs from all partners at the local level that fund Oregon's 9-1-1 system. Funding stability is critical for the daily operational needs of many 9-1-1 facilities in rural Oregon as well as facilities within the urban regions of Oregon.

9-1-1 fees have not been increased since 1995, yet costs related to implementing a state-wide digital network, text-to-9-1-1 service, hardware upgrades, software needs, increased staffing to handle call volume, and virtually every other cost associated with running a 9-1-1 facility. The revenue side of the equation however has not kept up with this added cost, because revenue distribution is reliant on the additional phones added to the system and not call volume.

As part of the League of Oregon Cities vetting process with members a constant theme emerged over the support of policies and funding packages intended to invest in communities across Oregon. HB 2449 fits this vision from the League and the communities we represent.

We have a 9-1-1 system today that was built from a financing model that was created in 1995. We need to update this funding structure to provide additional funding for operational needs of 9-1-1 facilities and provide an additional funding stream to make a dent in the critical updates needed statewide for technology.

The League is hopeful you can join cities, counties, special districts association, all of Oregon's police and fire agencies and many more and support HB 2449 B.