



June 18, 2019

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2449B Increases rate of tax for emergency communications.

Dear Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Bentz and members of the Committee,

As Mayor of Beaverton and president of Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency Board (WCCCA), public safety is one of my top priorities. I would like to express out strong support for HB 2449B.

The 9-1-1 emergency services tax increase provides critical backing for Oregon's 9-1-1 emergency reporting system. This tax increase supports the system's overall effectiveness by financing maintenance, operational and improvement costs. WCCCA delivers 9-1-1 service and public safety communications for police, fire and emergency medical service for Beaverton and other participating jurisdictions.

The Agency relies on the 9-1-1 tax as an important funding source for emergency services. Yet today, the 911 tax covers just 20% of the costs of those emergency services. The participating jurisdictions are then stuck picking up the rest of the costs with general fund dollars.

The additional revenue as a result of the passing of this bill would help offset shares in operating costs for participating jurisdictions. The population WCCCA serves has grown considerably over the past 10 years and additional growth is expected. In 2018, the agency received a total of 515,690 calls, a steady increase over each year.

It is therefore critical that the 9-1-1 tax be increased to support the agency's financial needs so that it can continue to meet this service demand.

The bill also extends the sunset of the tax to 2030. This will help ensure a needed source of funding for emergency services crucial to public safety statewide remains stable in the years to come.

I urge your support HB 2449B for the interest of public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denny Doyle".

Denny Doyle,
Mayor