



# LINN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Jim Yon, Sheriff**

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April 2, 2019

Paul Evans, Chair  
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
900 Court St, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of HB2449

Chair Evans, Members of the Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness,

I am writing this letter of support in regards to HB2449. I will try to keep this letter short and to the point.

As the Sheriff of Linn County, I am responsible for the safety and wellbeing of my community. In the mid 1980's, Linn County opened our 911 center (PSAP) and have been operating it ever since then. It has been the tip of the sword for public safety since that day. It is the starting point for all police and fire calls.

The tax rate was set at \$.75 to help pay for the PSAP's. I want to put things into perspective from 1985. Stamps were \$.22 and they are \$.52 today. The average cost to get into a movie was about \$3.50. The price of a gallon of gas and a gallon of milk was just over \$1. The tax rate has not changed since inception. The complexity and cost of completing this mission has risen dramatically over the years.

This bill would truly help all the PSAP's throughout the state with additional funds. Equipment and people are what make this function. Each PSAP is on an equipment rotation to ensure up to date equipment. OEM is running short on money to maintain this schedule. We have been delayed a year on our update. This is a great concern for me. If there is a malfunction in the equipment because of age, my citizens would not be able to get the help they might require.

I know the telecommunication companies are against this bill. They are not tasked with the safety and wellbeing of OUR citizens. We are. We are not asking for some outlandish or narrow in scope program. We are talking about the State-wide critical infrastructure 9-1-1 System. We are talking about updating the rate that pays for one of the most valuable resources in government. They are only concerned about money. This tax money is directly responsible for saving the lives of our citizens every day. These are dedicated funds.

To me, this is a simple decision. This system could save each one of us or one of our loved ones. We need to update the tax rate and extend the sunset on the tax.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jim Yon  
Linn County Sheriff