



February 8, 2019

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair  
House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Se. NE, HR 50  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2449A

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gresham strongly supports HB 2449A, which would provide additional resources for emergency communication and dispatch. One of the most critical elements of our public safety system is the connection between residents in distress, 9-1-1 service, and efficient dispatch of appropriate public safety resources. Unfortunately, revenue generated from 9-1-1 taxes have been dwindling relative to the cost of providing emergency dispatch services.

In Gresham, we are allotted around \$550,000 per year in state 9-1-1 revenues, a drop in the bucket of the \$3.5 million annual cost for Gresham. The resources needed to close that gap diminish our investments in police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical providers.

The additional investment that would be provided through HB 2449A would not fully bridge the delta, but it would make a meaningful difference in helping Gresham, and other local governments, provide excellent emergency services for our residents. The nexus between 9-1-1 taxes and the direct services they provide is one of the strongest and easiest to explain connections in our entire tax structure. A modest increase, as provided by HB 2449A would go a long way to ensure the stability, efficiency, and effectiveness of our system. We strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers  
Government Relations Director