

House Committee on Revenue Testimony HB 2449A

Chair Nathanson, Co-Chairs Findlay and Marsh, members of the Revenue Committee

Good morning, for the record I'm Karl Koenig President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council and proud consumer of the other side of the 911 system. Every shift I work in Clackamas County my employer responds to approximately 100 calls for service a day. The interesting part as the largest 911 Fire consumer in the Clackamas County those 100 calls dispatched for assistance whether fire or medical can generate 10 -15 calls to the 911 center for each alarm. That does not count Law Enforcement either.

I am here testifying in support of HB 2449 A and the increase of the 911 tax on prepaid phones. Just a fun fact Oregon is 50th in cell phone taxes assessed on consumers and this increase will keep Oregon in the bottom 40 of cell phone taxes paid.

As a cell phone consumer the tax against my non prepaid phone is \$1.50 per per month so there is some tax equity in this modest fee increase.

The pressure on 911 Centers and their users is well told story of success, call 911 and you will get the help you need. That comes at a cost. Adding staff to answer the call and get help going to the call costs money and an equitable tax to help fund 911 centers across the State is the correct way to guarantee that service stays viable for all Oregonians and our visitors is needed.

Your 3500 career fire fighters and paramedics, urge a yes vote on 2449A to serve both sides of the 911 call for years to come.

Thank you

Karl Koenig
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council