



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

State Interoperability Executive Council
c/o Statewide Interoperability Program
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February 12, 2025

Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 826

Dear Chair Manning, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

The State Interoperability Executive Council's (SIEC) is charged with ensuring Oregon's public safety communications are interoperable, for recommending strategies to improve public safety communications, and for promoting the development of public safety communication infrastructures. Made up of 26 members from all public safety disciplines and from different levels of government, the SIEC's vision is to ensure seamless, interoperable, and resilient emergency communications across the state.

On behalf of the SIEC, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 826, which proposes transferring the duties, functions, and powers related to the Oregon Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), the SIEC, and the Statewide Interoperability Program from the State Chief Information Officer to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM).

By aligning the SIEC's efforts with those of OEM, SB 826 aims to enhance the coordination and implementation of interoperable emergency communication strategies, thereby strengthening our state's emergency response capabilities and better positioning us to meet the needs of people who live, work, and recreate throughout the state.

We believe that OEM's specialized focus on emergency management, homeland security, and all-hazards response positions it as the most appropriate agency to undertake the responsibilities of ensuring our first responders can communicate with each other and that the public can get help when they need it the most. This transition is anticipated to lead to a more efficient management of resources, improved emergency communications capabilities for OEM, and a unified approach to public safety communications throughout Oregon.

In closing, the SIEC fully supports SB 826 and we look forward to working with OEM leadership, and the Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) to ensure a smooth transition.

Sincerely,

Anthony (Tony) DeBone
Chair, State Interoperability Executive Council