



JACKSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4

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March 26, 2025

Oregon House Speaker Julie Fahey
Oregon Senate President Rob Wagner

RE: Support for HB3870 – Capital Construction Funding for ECSO 911 Public Safety Radio System

Dear Speaker Fahey and President Wagner,

On behalf of Jackson County Fire District 4, we are writing to express our full support for HB3870 and the Capital Construction Request to provide critical funding assistance to Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ECSO 911) for the completion of their public safety radio infrastructure project.

As a proud user member of ECSO 911, we rely daily on the agency's 911 call handling and dispatch services to ensure rapid, coordinated emergency response across Jackson County. ECSO 911 is an essential regional resource, serving not only Jackson County and Crater Lake National Park, but parts of surrounding counties as well.

In 2019, Jackson County voters demonstrated their commitment to public safety by approving a \$28 million general obligation bond to fund much-needed upgrades to the aging emergency radio system. Unfortunately, due to economic shifts, inflation, technological requirements, and unforeseen environmental factors, the project now faces a funding shortfall of approximately \$1.3 million.

The completion of this system is urgent. In order to meet the bond timeline and ensure a seamless transition, construction must be finished in 2025. The new system must operate in parallel with the existing system for several months before acceptance. These tight timelines highlight the importance of immediate legislative support.

Jackson and Josephine Counties are among the most wildfire-vulnerable regions in Oregon. With threats from wildfires, earthquakes, and climate-driven events increasing, dependable communication infrastructure is not a luxury — it is a lifesaving necessity.

We respectfully urge the Oregon Legislature to support HB3870 and invest in the final phase of ECSO 911's radio system modernization. This funding is vital to ensuring the safety of the citizens we serve and the first responders who protect them.

Sincerely,

Travis Crume

Travis Crume, Fire Chief
Jackson County Fire District 4

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