



March 26, 2025

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber & Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 3870. The City of Central Point sees this legislation as a critical investment in the safety, resiliency, and well-being of our community and the broader region.

Central Point depends heavily on Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ECSO) for dispatch and emergency communications services. The funding outlined in HB 3870 will allow ECSO to make necessary upgrades to its radio systems, dispatch technology, and overall infrastructure. These improvements will directly enhance emergency response capabilities for Central Point's police, fire, and public works teams, ensuring faster, clearer, and more reliable communication during everyday incidents and large-scale emergencies alike. Importantly, these updates will also increase the resiliency of our communication network by supporting solar energy generation for key radio tower sites—helping maintain operational continuity during power outages or natural disasters.

Beyond communications, HB 3870 also supports the development of a sobering center in Jackson County. For Central Point, this means law enforcement officers will have an alternative to jail or emergency rooms when encountering individuals in crisis due to substance use. This not only leads to more humane outcomes, but it also frees up valuable police and healthcare resources to better serve the broader community. The sobering center will be a key part of a more coordinated regional approach to behavioral health and addiction services—something that is sorely needed in Southern Oregon.

In addition, we recognize and support the investments in emergency services facilities and seismic upgrades in neighboring jurisdictions, including Talent. These regional improvements have a direct impact on Central Point's safety and preparedness, as mutual aid and interagency coordination are central to emergency response across the Rogue Valley. When surrounding communities are strong and resilient, we all benefit.

In summary, HB 3870 provides smart, targeted investments that will enhance emergency communications, support behavioral health infrastructure, and strengthen regional disaster resilience. The City of Central Point urges your support for this important legislation and appreciates your continued commitment to public safety and community well-being across Southern Oregon.

Sincerely,

Chris Clayton

City of Central Point, City Manager