

TESTIMONY OF CHIEF GREG BORTON – ODELL RURAL FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT – HOOD RIVER 23 APRIL 2009 TO THE
JOINT WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

This project (Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network) is vital to the public safety of all citizens in the state of Oregon. This network will encompass the whole state when it's completed. The project is already in some phases at this time. All agencies – fire, police, EMS - will use this communications system throughout the state to be able to communicate freely and without harm in any way to any of the citizens. If there's disasters like the Woodburn bombing and more resources are needed from through the state, the state can receive them. The FCC has mandated by 2013 that all public agencies will go to the narrowband system. This system is a radio-driven unit so all agencies will have to do this. With this new OWIN project they will be able to handle this narrow band. If it isn't done the FCC says they will fine and take away radios. This project has already been started and it is in areas as I stated. This project will provide jobs for the state of Oregon and in economic times like Oregon has right now this will provide jobs for laborers, technicians, engineers and everybody. I would hope that you would continue to support this program and make the citizens of Oregon safe.