



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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August 31, 2016

Mr. Steven V. King  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

**Re: Petition for 2017 E911 State Excise Tax by the Washington Military Department,  
Emergency Management Division, State E911 Coordinator's Office**

Dear Mr. King:

Under RCW 82.14B.030(5), the Washington Military Department (WMD), Emergency Management Division (EMD), must recommend to the Commission the appropriate level of tax, based on a systematic cost and revenue analysis.

**Background**

On January 1, 2011, the legislature, through SSB 6846, increased the state E911 tax from \$.20/device/month to \$.25/device/month for wireline and wireless services. The \$.25/device/month tax was also added to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) devices. On June 30, 2013, the Governor signed HB1971 into law, requiring prepaid wireless retailers to remit Enhanced 911 (E911) tax at the same level as the other classes of service on each retail transaction beginning January 1, 2014.

**Recommended Excise Tax Rate**

Anticipated expenses for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 are greater than the anticipated revenue. The Washington Military Department's (WMD) Emergency Management Division (EMD), State E911 Coordinator's Office, recommends the state E911 excise taxes on prepaid wireless, wireline, wireless and VoIP devices continue at the current rate of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per month, or per retail transaction in the case of prepaid wireless, in calendar year 2017.