



WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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County Executive
John M. Pelham

December 23, 2009

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Honorable Harry Green, Ph.D., Executive Director
Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Suite 508
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: TACIR Study of House Bill 0204/911 Funding

Dear Dr. Green,

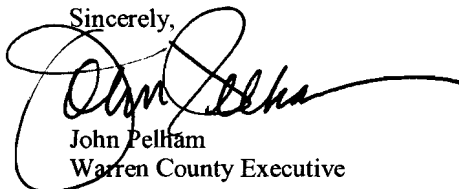
We are encouraged that TACIR is conducting a study of House Bill 204 and Senate Bill 208 and appreciate this opportunity to share our position on the matter. Warren County Government and our elected officials have a great interest in the success of our local Emergency Communications District both financially and operationally. Therefore, we strongly support the components of House Bill 204, Senate Bill 208, and the bipartisan efforts in this cause by Senator Eric Stewart and State Representative Judd Matheny. Components of this legislation include:

- \$25,500,000 in new revenue, according to information provided by the General Assembly staff;
- All new revenue dedicated to Tennessee's 100 Emergency Communications Districts;
- \$3,750,000 additional revenue reserved for the 50 lowest population Districts;
- Rate adjustment protects revenue now retained by the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board (TECB), while securing amounts currently received by Districts.

Warren County government presently supports the dispatching operations of our local District through property tax allocations in accordance with our interlocal agreement. Our position is that House Bill 204 and Senate Bill 208 provide new funding mechanisms and enhance existing revenue sources allowing 911 fees to pay for all E-911 costs including dispatching operations. Present TECB policy prohibits 911-revenue from covering the costs of dispatching operations. This cost is currently paid for by City and County Government. It is important to note that from an operational perspective, calls for emergency service by the public are, from the call-taking to the dispatching process, expected to be handled seamlessly. The funding structure, however, is presently not designed to accommodate this reality. House Bill 204 and Senate Bill 208 recognize this and put in place revenue streams that realistically support 911 services as expected by the public.

We also respectfully request that your office examine a project currently proposed by the TECB known as "next generation 911" project, the cost and benefit of "next generation 911" to Tennessee's Emergency Communications Districts.

Sincerely,



John Pelham
Warren County Executive

JPchc

