

**Testimony of Clinton Tegeler
Mayor, City of Ganado**

**Before the Senate Committee on Business & Commerce
April 26, 2011**

Chairman Carona and members of the committee, my name is Clinton Tegeler. I currently serve as the Mayor of Ganado, Texas, and I am appearing before you today in my personal capacity as well as in my role as Board President of the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission as well as Chairman of the Corporation for Texas Regionalism.

I am here today to urge your support for SB 1848 by Senator Hegar, which relates to the allocation of dedicated wireless and prepaid wireless fee revenue to support the 9-1-1 system. As many of you know, the state 9-1-1 system administered by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) covers 2/3 of the geographic area of the state and 1/3 of the population.

While the 51 emergency communications districts and home rule cities across the state receive the dedicated fees paid by consumers directly based on the percentage of the population that they represent, the dedicated fee revenue allocated to jurisdictions within the state system must first pass through the state appropriations process and is not always fully appropriated for the use for which it was collected.

This creates significant unpredictability for regional planning commissions, cities and counties in budgeting for equipment replacement, maintenance and operations of our Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)—the critical infrastructure for routing 9-1-1 calls.

SB 1848 would directly allocate fees generated by wireless and prepaid wireless customers for 9-1-1 service (landline fees would not be affected) to the 24 regional planning commissions to better meet the 9-1-1 needs of those local jurisdictions in the 9-1-1 system. This more predictable revenue stream would allow for better capital planning, optimal pricing and the replacement of equipment as it is needed.

In addition, SB 1848 would help to ensure that dedicated fee revenue is expended for the purpose for which it was intended, and that Texans living in jurisdictions served by the state 9-1-1 system are receiving a level of 9-1-1 services equal to that of citizens of areas served by other 9-1-1 entities.

As the mayor of a small municipality, I can tell you that SB 1848 will help to ensure that the 9-1-1 needs of my community and my citizens are met. I urge your favorable consideration of this important legislation and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.