

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable John Carter, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

As you begin to work on the fiscal year 2019 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to provide at least \$405 million for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program and \$405 million for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program.

Through the Committee's past efforts, we have demonstrated Congress' strong bipartisan support for the AFG Grant program. Since 2001, this program has had a profound impact on public safety by providing nearly \$7 billion for infrared cameras, personal protective gear, hazmat detection devices, improved breathing apparatuses, and interoperable communications systems. This equipment provides our fire departments with the tools they need to effectively respond to all hazards that firefighters may face on any given call.

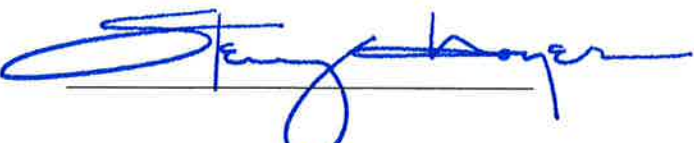

The SAFER program provides much needed resources to career and volunteer fire departments across the nation, and allows them to hire new firefighters, and also recruit and retain firefighters. This program is critical to thousands of fire stations across the country, many of which are currently operating with limited staff and funding. When adequately funded, SAFER will bring or maintain our nation's fire departments to staffing levels that will improve the safety of our firefighters, as well as the communities they serve, as they respond to the scene of fires, auto accidents, or other natural or manmade disasters. As you well know, the SAFER program complements the very successful AFG program, through which the federal government provides funds for training and equipment for fire departments across the country. Ensuring that career and volunteer departments have adequate numbers of firefighters will allow departments to fully utilize the training and equipment funds provided through the FIRE grant programs.

However, the nearly \$3 billion in applications submitted annually demonstrates that there is a great deal of work that still must be done before our communities are sufficiently served by first responders.

We ask our firefighters and fire responders to risk their lives each day, but too often they are forced to respond with aging equipment, inadequate training, and insufficient staffing. We as a nation have an obligation to provide them with the necessary resources to perform their jobs as safely and effectively as possible. We urge you to help Congress meet that obligation by funding the AFG and SAFER programs at \$405 million each in the FY2019 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Raja Krishnamurthi Brian K. Fitzpatrick Claudia Fenney

Call Martha McSally R. H. H.

Joe Olsen ~~Joe~~ ~~Joe~~

Henry Hech Jamie Raski 80 (K)

Fil Vela Jim W. Brown Suzanne Bonamici

Ed Lewis Harry E. Platt

Ryan Costello Don L. M. Mike Donpe

Franklin J. Will Hurd A. Donald McEakin

Michelle Lujan Grisham ~~Joe~~

Elizabeth H. Eddy Thomas R. Guzzi

Alma Adams D. S. Sett

Jim Patta Ted W. Linn

Frank Palko Val B. Deming Daniel T. Kieda

Don R. Jim McFarlane Foster John A

Jim Swaback Alan Lowenthal Glenn 'GT' Thompson

Debbie Dwyer Mike DSO Neal P.

Charis Crist Judy Chu C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Michael B. Jones	Linda J. Sanchez	Gretta D. Clarke
Jan Scholinsky	Walter B. Jones	Gubner Jr.
Paula Ann Nelson	Tom J. Mays	Bobby Jr.
Robert B. Smith	Carolyn B. Mays	Jennell Nadler
Chris Dunn	Doris Matsui	Dick Larsen
Daniel Ziegler	Patricia Meehan	Diana Dellette
Glenn L. Hestings	Ernest J. Lane	W. H. A.
Joe Courtney	Bernie L. Thompson	John
Frank K.	Rae A. Brady	Peter A. Fair
Glenn S.	Jim Sanger	Pete Sessions
A.P. Duff	Jim A.	Mike Cugley
Don Young	Eliot E. Cummings	Red Dexters
Gene Green	Ch. H.	Ken A. Lyle
Paul D. Taylor	Danny & Daria	Eliot L. Engel
Dana Tetra	Mike R.	Dale D. Bishop Jr.
Jackie Speier	Rosa Z. Bhawro	Wini
Brian H. Jr.	John P. L.	John P. L.

Ron Kind

Kathleen Rin

Tom L'Amour

~~Ed Ben~~
Mark Takas

~~1/1~~
MVG

Dave Lechuck
Donald Voss

Rail M. Hight

Carol Shear-Power

Bruce Watsky
John Vargas

John B. Lauer
Jan Th

Jill M. Down
~~Jan Th~~

Grace J. Napolitano
Norma J. Jones

Niki Vargas
Cherida Laurence

Jan Polis
Robert Gallego

Brendan J. Boyle
JACQUIN CASTRO

Bill Foster

Jane Jones

Jim Hin

Stephen

Patricia Kelly

~~Jan Th~~

Nancy Diaz Baragona

Al Laurie

Jan Th

Paul Hoff

Leah Hall

Ed Gattullo

Sam Lutz

Michael T. Capomano

Andy Ben

Ami Ben

Bradley Scott Schneider

Tulsi Gabbard

Bill Johnson

Kristen Simona

Kelly Day

Frank A. LeBonda

Wm Lucy Cley

Kat Schuler

Liam Blunt Rochester

Alvin Kahn

J. Luis Correa

Sander Levin

Bruce Poligvin

Hank Johnson

~~Monahan~~

Kepi Ellison

Lerni Sewell

Keth Walsh

~~Sam E. H.~~

Joyce Beatty

Steve Russell

Ann E. Cannon

~~Jim De~~

Public Works

Cher Bustos

Bennett

Sam B. M. Tie

~~James M. Miller~~

Steve Fagan

Ann Smith

Nydia Klager

Frederica Wilson

Tom Marnio

Donald S. Bump

~~Earl Blum~~

Greg Brown

Kam Barr

~~Ca I~~

Burton Lee

Lois F. Smith

Lou Barletta

Steve Coha

Bob Brown

Joseph Curly