

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

January 14, 2015

Mr. Brian E. Kamoie
Grant Programs Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Re: EMW-2014-FV-02027

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

I am writing to express my support for the funding application referenced above, submitted by the Newburgh Fire Department (NFD).

As you may be aware, the City of Newburgh has applied for assistance with acquiring a fire boat on several occasions. Unfortunately, the application has yet to be awarded, and the Department and region is in desperate need of your assistance. The NFD is without a vessel capable of responding to calls for service on the Hudson River. This issue presents a serious public safety risk not only to the residents of the City of Newburgh, but also more significantly for the entire riverfront community in Orange County, NY.

The NFD is tasked with protecting and responding to emergencies on the Hudson River between the Tappan Zee Bridge and the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge, a distance of seventy (70) linear miles. The Department's jurisdiction includes five (5) major bridges and multiple riverfront communities. This portion of the Hudson River is also central to moving cargo and is utilized by major commercial shipping companies. As a result, increasing NFD's presence on the Hudson River by awarding this grant is not only a wise investment that will implement additional public safety aspects to the region's waterborne commerce, but also protect several homeland security targets and ensure safe recreational experiences on the waterway. Failure to award this application, or provide another means of assistance to the Department, will further jeopardize public safety throughout the region.

In addition, the City of Newburgh is currently working with both the State of New York and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in reestablishing the Port of Newburgh. The port will initially be used to assist in the construction of the Tappan-Zee Bridge, and allow for a wide range of cargo to be delivered and shipped via barge and rail. It is worth noting that the port is adjacent to a CSX rail line, which currently transfers several forms of oil and other combustible chemicals, presenting an additional need to acquire a vessel capable of fire suppression.

Therefore, I fully support this application and urge your serious consideration of this critical investment. In order to keep my office informed about this opportunity during the allocation process, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Deputy District Director, Joseph Donat by phone at (845) 561-1295 or via e-mail at Joseph.Donat@mail.house.gov. Thank you in advance for your time and careful consideration of this request as both are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress