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18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218
March 9, 2015

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

Re: EMW-2014-FH-00744

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

I am writing to express my full and unquestionable support of the funding application referenced above, submitted by the Newburgh Fire Department (NFD). The NFD is in desperate need of your assistance and expedited review of their application. Failure to award its Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) application will further jeopardize the safety of my neighbors, and will result in twelve additional firefighters being laid-off on December 31, 2015.

Award of this application will allow the NFD to strengthen its staffing levels, and in doing so ensure that Newburgh and surrounding region remain safe. The City of Newburgh has already put several firefighters on official notice that they will be laid-off by December 31, 2015, if alternative funding is not identified for their positions. The lay-offs of these brave public servants would once again cause the fire department to fall behind in its size, strength, and efficiency. Because on an initial SAFER grant, the NFD has been able to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for the first time in nearly a decade and save lives. Earlier this year, the NFD responded to a three story building fire and without the additional firefighters on the job, the NFD would not have been able to save a victim's life.

It is worth noting that the City of Newburgh is being considered for Promise Zone designation by the Executive Branch, and once awarded the designation, the City will be able to further its mission to improve the safety, security, and well-being of its employees and citizens alike. I have met with city officials to ensure the Fire Department is making all cost cutting measures possible but as you may know, Newburgh faces dire financial circumstances of declining property values and a limited tax base. In closing, I implore you to review this application and award the NFD with the ability to remain in compliance with NFPA.

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, 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