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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

May 12, 2015

Mr. Brian Kamoie, Assistant Administrator  
DHS/FEMA/Grants Program Preparedness  
Tech World Building – 9<sup>th</sup> Floor South Tower  
800 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20472-3620

Application No. EMW-2014-FH-00219

Dear Mr. Kamoie,

As Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus please allow me to express support for the Kearny, New Jersey Fire Department's application for funding pursuant to the US Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response.

The Kearny Fire Department is in dire need of hiring 12 firefighters that due to economic reason and retirements cannot be replaced. The Kearny Fire Department has gone from a full table organization of 102 employees, to an all-time low of 83 employees. The grant will also increase the frequency with which they respond with 4 member engine companies. The 12 firefighters are directly needed on the front lines because with the makeup of its staff, the fire department rarely has 4 member engine companies that are needed on their frontline. With the department call volume increasing nearly 25% from 2013 to 2014, the need for firefighters to combat any risks cannot be overstated.

The new firefighters will increase the percentage of their response time with 4 member engine companies. The new firefighters will increase the percentage of their response time with 4 member engine companies. With the hiring of the new firefighters, this will allow the Fire Department to dramatically regain compliance with NFPA 1710. Compliance with this standard will improve the health and safety of firefighters and its citizens.

Throughout my 18 years in the United States House of Representative, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our firefighters have the resources they need to protect our citizens and their personal property. As author of the FIRE Act, I understand that fire departments such as Kearny's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The urgency for the City of Kearny's safety cannot be overstated because it is only a matter of time before the use of these outdated and below standard equipment compromises the lives of our firefighters and citizens.

I urge you to give careful consideration to the grant application from the Kearny Fire Department and to fund this request to the greatest extent possible, within all applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Member of Congress