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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 19, 2019

Mr. Thomas DiNanno
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

*Application No. EMW-2018-FO-04687

Dear Mr. DiNanno,

As the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support for the Little Ferry Volunteer Fire Department's application submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. They are requesting approximately \$300,000 in funding to acquire 35 SCBA units. **This application is one of my top priorities for funding in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey for 2019.**

Little Ferry is the primary responder to Teterboro Airport, the largest privately-owned airport in the nation, operating over 800 flights each month. In addition to its over 10,000 residents, the borough is home to the Bergen County Utilities Authority treating over 83 million gallons of waste per day for 47 municipalities. The department is tasked with protecting critical infrastructure, including the Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike, and George Washington Bridge. This places the area under the third highest risk for mass destruction from a terrorist attack, as defined by the Federal Government. This, coupled with a 2% cap on increased municipality taxes, leaves the Borough of Little Ferry without the financial ability to purchase essential equipment. These new cylinders will replace current apparatuses, all of which are no longer NFPA compliant.

Throughout my 20 years in the United States House of Representatives, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our firefighters have the equipment, vehicles, training, and other resources they need to protect our citizens and their personal property. As the author of the FIRE Act, I understand that fire departments such as Little Ferry's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The Borough of Little Ferry is an area that is vulnerable to emergencies, and the urgency to provide safety for its citizens and first responders should not be overlooked.

I am pleased to support the Little Ferry Fire Department and respectfully ask that you look favorably upon their request, within the boundaries of applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress