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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

April 4, 2016

Mr. W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Administration
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Newburgh Fire Department for funding from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This funding will allow the Fire Department to retain its firefighters and staff in order to ensure the City's safety.

The Newburgh Fire Department provides fire and emergency response services to the City of Newburgh and other mutual aid response areas in Orange County. They respond to situations at critical infrastructure in the nearby region, including the CSX railroad, Newburgh Beacon Ferry and Bridge, Stewart International Airport, the Hudson River, and the Petroleum Port of Newburgh. In 2012, the Department was awarded a SAFER grant, enabling it to hire 15 new firefighters and bolstering EMS and firefighter capabilities and efficiency. However, this funding has since expired. Without the renewal of SAFER funding, the Newburgh Fire Department risks 12 layoffs, jeopardizing the safety of Newburgh's citizens and firefighters.

The requested funding for the Newburgh Fire Department will be used to avoid layoffs and keep its emergency response programs fully staffed. With paramedic units located at Fire Department headquarters rather than another location, the City is able to meet the Advanced Life Support required response time for 100% of addresses within the City. As an economically distressed area, past funding has allowed the Newburgh Fire Department to buy equipment and ensure adequate staffing levels without the use of additional tax dollars. Additionally, the increased staff from 2012 has dramatically increased efficiency. The renewal of funding will allow the Department to have the necessary number of firefighters to continue its service to the City and surrounding area with a high effectiveness and efficiency.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Jon Cardinal at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator