

October 13, 2009

The Honorable David Wu, Chairman
House Committee on Science and Technology
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith, Ranking Member
House Committee on Science and Technology
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wu and Ranking Member Smith:

On behalf of the nations' more than one million volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, I am writing to express the support of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) for H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs are vital to America's fire and emergency services. AFG provides funding to fire departments to purchase equipment, training and apparatus while SAFER funds are used for hiring career firefighters and recruitment and retention of volunteers. AFG and SAFER grant applications are peer-reviewed by panels of fire service professionals to ensure that the only the most deserving are funded.

Reauthorization of AFG and SAFER is essential in order to bring all fire departments up to a baseline level of readiness. If you have any questions, please contact Director of Government Relations, Dave Finger, at (202) 887-5700, ext. 12 or dfinger@nvfc.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Schafer
Executive Director