

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 20, 2013

W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

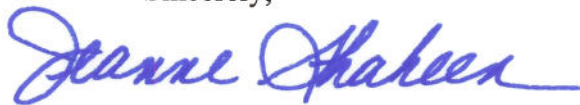
I am writing to express my support for the SAFER grant application that the Berlin, New Hampshire Fire Department has submitted to hire six full time firefighters.

The City of Berlin operates the only full-time fire department in Coos County, staffed by eighteen full-time firefighters and an eight person call department. The department is facing immediate layoffs, and without assistance will need to reduce staffing levels by 25 percent in the next fiscal year. Such a dramatic reduction will seriously impact the department's ability to provide critical services, including wild land and structural fire suppression, fire prevention, technical rescue, medical first response, confined space rescue, trench rescue, swift water rescue, and hazardous material response at the operational and technical level.

With support from SAFER, the Berlin Fire Department will maintain six full-time firefighter positions. Maintaining these positions will enable the department to reduce overtime costs and provide a safer working environment for firefighters responding to calls.

I support the Berlin Fire Department in its application for SAFER funding and urge your serious consideration of their proposal, which I hope will meet with your approval. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Andrew Zabel, at (202) 224-6673.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator