

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

January 10, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

We write to respectfully request further review and consideration of the 2013 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant application submitted by the Berlin Fire Department.

As you are aware, in the absence of federal grant funds, the Berlin Fire Department faces an imminent staff reduction of 25 percent. Without an adequate number of firefighters at the only full-time department in Coös County, our constituents in the North Country face a dangerous and potentially life-threatening situation.

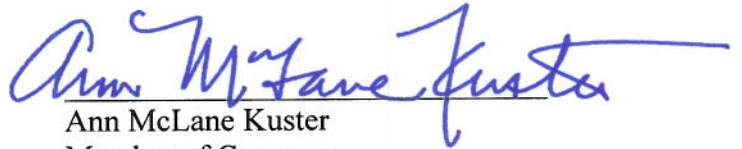
While we understand that the demand for SAFER funds exceeds their availability, we believe that the Berlin Fire Department's proposal is well aligned with FEMA's grant priorities and would have a significant impact on the department's ability to safely and effectively respond to fire and other emergency incidents in the city and surrounding region. Federal assistance is particularly merited in this instance given the tenuous state of the economy in Berlin and the North Country, which just last week saw a major area employer announce drastic layoffs.

We urge you to extend every consideration to a further review of this application to ensure the safety and well-being of our constituents and the firefighters that serve them in the northern part of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress