

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2018

DHS-FEMA-GPD

Attn: Thomas DiNanno

Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs

Washington, DC 20472-3635

Dear Assistant Administrator DiNanno,

I write to support the Town of Effingham Fire Department in its application for \$89,900 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG). Support from AFG will help the department purchase needed upgrades to its self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. These improvements will enhance the safety of both the firefighters and citizens of the town.

Staffed primarily by volunteer firefighters, the Effingham Fire Department provides first-due fire response to a town of nearly forty square miles with 1465 permanent residents. It also fields calls through a mutual aid partnership that covers over 47,000 people in surrounding communities. These partners depend on Effingham's firefighters to respond with safe and reliable equipment.

With support from the AFG program, the Effingham Fire Department will purchase new SCBAs to replace current equipment that is malfunctioning frequently. Its thirteen units use their battery packs at an alarming rate, and the SCBAs ride high on the backs of firefighters causing an entanglement risk. They have leaking high and low pressure lines, exhaust valves sticking in the closed position and face masks that are showing dry rot around the seals. The Town simply does not have the available funds in its operating budget to afford new, needed equipment to keep its firefighters, residents and surrounding communities safe.

I support the Effingham Fire Department in its application for AFG grant funding and urge your serious consideration of their proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis from my staff at (603) 647-7500. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator