

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2020

Mr. Christopher P. Logan
Acting Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

Dear Assistant Administrator Logan,

I write in support of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program application for the Town of Lincoln, New Hampshire Fire Department. Funding from AFG will be used to replace aging, 23 year-old SCBA packs with equipment that is in full compliance with current NFPA 1981 standards. These upgrades will enhance the safety of Lincoln firefighters and, in turn, citizens of the town and region.

The Lincoln Fire Department provides first-due coverage to a town of 131 square miles and roughly 1,800 residents. Its population swells in the winter months with visitors from across the region traveling to Loon Mountain, a popular ski resort in the town. Town officials estimate that up to 25,000 tourists per year visit Lincoln to enjoy Loon Mountain and other year-round outdoor recreational opportunities. Firefighters also respond to calls from a number of mutual aid communities as well as emergencies on many miles of Interstate 93.

With support from the AFG program, the Lincoln Fire Department will purchase new SCBAs to replace current SCBAs that are 23 years-old and non-compliant with current standards. Securing straps on the SCBA are frayed and the securing buckles are slipping, which requires firefighters to constantly readjust the packs on their back. This aging equipment is frequently out of service for repairs, and the department is finding it difficult to get parts due to the age of the gear. With new and improved equipment, Lincoln firefighters can confidently perform their duties and continue to provide efficient and safe emergency services to the town's residents and many visitors.

Federal funding will immediately address these safety hazards and improve the well-being of Lincoln firefighters. I support the AFG application from the Lincoln Fire Department and urge your serious consideration of its worthy 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