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RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS

ARMED SERVICES, RANKING MEMBER

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

INTELLIGENCE, EX OFFICIO

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

November 28, 2018

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Ms. Bridget Bean  
Acting Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
400 C Street SW, 3rd Floor North  
Washington, DC 20472

RE: EMW-2018-FO-03912

Dear Ms. Bean:

I write in support of the Narragansett Fire Department's application for funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. This funding will assist the Department in establishing a NFPA 1021 Fire Services Officer Training program and assist the Department in purchasing equipment to monitor hazardous gas emissions during Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) emergency calls.

The Narragansett Fire Department has lost a majority of its senior officers to retirement, creating the need to transition firefighters into these leadership positions. The Department is requesting funding to host an instructor led NFPA 1021 Fire Service Officer Training program. Providing firefighters and new officers with the opportunity to take this training program will provide a base of knowledge to build on and guide future success in their fire service careers. In addition to training the Narragansett Fire Department's own members, the program will be open to firefighters or officers throughout the State of Rhode Island.

In addition, The Narragansett Fire Department has requested funding to purchase air-monitoring equipment that will allow for the detection and measurement of hazardous gasses on emergency calls. The Department's response area includes several challenging facilities containing chemical hazards including a 2-megawatt research nuclear reactor, laboratories at the University of Rhode Island, an EPA laboratory and one of the largest fishing fleets in the northeast. The Department is requesting 8 multi-gas meters, 5 cyanide meters, 2 nuclear radiation detectors, 7 CO meters, and training in the use of this equipment. This project will help detect hazardous chemicals, reduce exposure to carcinogen intake during emergency response calls and contribute to the welfare firefighters and the community's overall health and safety.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is an essential resource for local fire departments to ensure they have the appropriate equipment to respond safely and effectively to emergencies. I support the Narragansett Fire Department's proposal and request your consideration of this application within all applicable rules and regulations.

If I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to call Christopher Albert of my Providence office at (401) 528-5200.

Sincerely,

  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator