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June 14, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Bean:

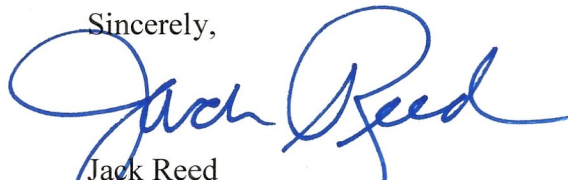
I write in support of the Woonsocket Fire Department's application for funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) FY 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER). This grant funding will allow the Department to hire twelve new firefighters.

The City of Woonsocket has a population of approximately 43,300 and is a densely populated and significantly built-out municipality with a large elderly population. The Department averages 11,000 runs per year. The City is currently recovering from a financial crisis and the Fire Department's overtime outlay continues to increase to compensate for loss of personnel from attrition and contractual negotiations.

This SAFER Grant funding would help the Woonsocket Fire Department hire twelve additional firefighters and allow the Department to be compliant with NFPA 1710. In addition, this will increase firefighter and community safety and reduce the Department's overtime outlay. Funding through this program is critical to fill these twelve positions and to maintain the full staffing complement of firefighters as the City continues to recover from the economic downturn.

With municipalities struggling to balance budgets, the SAFER Grant program is an essential resource for local fire departments to ensure they have the appropriate personnel to respond safely and effectively to emergencies. I support the Woonsocket Fire Department's proposal and request your thorough consideration of this application within all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator