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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3226

October 14, 2011

Ms. Elizabeth M. Harman
Assistant Administrator
DHS/FEMA/Grants Program Preparedness
Tech World Building - 9th Floor South Tour
800 K St, NW
Washington, DC 20472-3620

Dear Ms. Harman,

I am writing this letter in support of the Arcade Fire Department's application for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant under the Operations and Safety program and the Vehicle Acquisition program.

The Arcade Fire Department is seeking funding to purchase a compressor/fill station and fire hoses. This equipment will allow the department's 43 volunteers to more safely and effectively respond to fires and other emergencies. The compressor/fill station, a first-time purchase, will allow the volunteers to fill their air tanks and the tanks of neighboring departments at the scene of a fire or in the fire station. The requested hoses will replace equipment that is more than 20 years old.

The Department is also seeking funding to purchase a 75-foot aerial truck. The closest aerial trucks available to western Wyoming County's firefighters are located 25 miles away and takes at least 45 minutes to arrive once requested. Within the Village of Arcade, there is a multi-story elementary school, a four-story feed mill, more than 20 large barns and storage silos, and several apartment buildings and businesses that are more than 4 stories high. Fighting a fire at any of these sites would require the use of an aerial truck.

Without this funding, the Arcade Fire Department will be unable to purchase this essential equipment. I urge you to support this grant application and allow our firefighters to acquire the tools necessary to better accomplish their job: protecting victims of fire-related catastrophes while ensuring that they keep themselves safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Kathy C. Hochul
Member of Congress