



October 3, 2017

The Honorable Joe Courtney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Courtney and Thompson:

On behalf of the National Volunteer Fire Council, which represents the interests of the more than one million volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue personnel across the country, I am writing to thank you for introducing the Fire Police Fairness Act. Fire police officers perform a vital public safety function, carrying out traffic incident management duties at emergency scenes. Fire police are typically members of local fire departments, receive formal training and certification, and are integrated into emergency response operations. The services that fire police provide increase the staffing capacity of public safety agencies by allowing firefighters and police officers to focus their attention on other duties.

As you know, because fire police are not specifically recognized in the portion of the U.S. Code that establishes Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program, the Department of Justice has determined that they are not eligible for the Benefit. In those rare, unfortunate instances in which fire police officers are killed or disabled in the line of duty they should be eligible for PSOB, just as a firefighter or police officer performing traffic incident management duties would be.

Thank you again for introducing this critical legislation, which ensures fairness for fire police officers and their families. I look forward to working with you to enact the Fire Police Fairness Act.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Quinn
Chair

7852 WALKER DRIVE, SUITE 375, GREENBELT, MD 20770