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Joe Courtney

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March 3, 2022

DHS-FEMA-GPD

Attn: Chris Logan

Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs

400 C Street S.W., 3N

Washington, DC 20471-3635

RE: Columbia Fire Department AFG Application EMW-2021-FG-09751

Dear Mr. Logan:

I write to you today in strong support of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department's application for the Federal Emergency Management Administration's Assistance for Firefighters FY2020 grant program. Columbia Fire Department constitutes 34 volunteers who serve the town of Columbia, serving more than 5,000 residents and protecting several sites of significant infrastructure. The fire fighters of Columbia face risks with any fire call, however, they are burdened with the risk due to outdated and noncompliant SCBA air pack units.

The CVFD is responsible for responding to emergency affect infrastructure sites such as State Routes 6 and 66, rail lines operated by Worcester-Providence Railroad, and a natural gas pipeline that supplies significant portion of gas to the Northeast. It is of utter necessity that these firefighters possess functioning equipment, especially considering the implications that fire damage to these sites holds. The fire department is requesting the grant in order to purchase 18 SCBA air pack units, one of the most vital pieces of equipment. CVFD strives to properly maintain their units, but the reliability of the equipment decreases overtime and needs to be replaced in order to be PPE compliant and, above all else, protect these volunteers.

The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department provides indispensable services to its community and surrounding departments and to continue to do so they must be able to sufficiently protect their firefighters' wellbeing. For this reason, I urge you to award full funding to this application.

I thank you for your careful time and consideration.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY

Member of Congress