

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2020

Mr. Christopher P. Logan
Acting Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

Dear Assistant Administrator Logan,

I write to support the application submitted by the Town of Allenstown Fire Department for a grant from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The Department will use funds to purchase new, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)-compliant self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment, a compressor and a filling station. These upgrades will improve the safety of both the firefighters of Allenstown and citizens of the region.

The Allenstown Fire Department provides first-due fire response to a town of roughly 20 square miles and 4,300 residents in rural, central New Hampshire. It is also part of the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact that covers twenty-three neighboring communities spanning 816 square miles. In 2019, the Department answered 746 calls for service, which represents an 8.4% increase from the previous year. It expects calls to continue to increase in coming years due to new infrastructure and housing construction in the town.

The Department is forced to respond to these calls with outdated, non-compliant SCBA equipment. Its current SCBA inventory has surpassed its projected operational life, leaving firefighters at risk of responding to calls without proper quality air in their SCBA packs. With support from AFG program, the Allenstown Department will be outfitted with 19 new SCBA packs as well as a new compressor and fill station that will enable firefighters to quickly cycle their equipment back into service during fire-ground operations. With improved and more reliable gear, Allenstown firefighters will be better suited to serve and protect their community as well as their many mutual aid partners.

I support the Allenstown Fire Department in its application for AFG grant funding and urge your serious consideration of their proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis from my staff at (603) 647-7500. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator