

July 21, 2023

Mr. Patrick O'Brien
Director of the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation
Department of Defense
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Director O'Brien,

I write to express my strong support for the application submitted by the New Boston Fire Department for a grant from the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIPP). Federal aid from the DCIPP would allow the New Boston Fire Department to replace its antiquated fire station with a modern facility that meets the needs of firefighters and the community.

The town of New Boston is a small town of roughly 6,000 people just 20 minutes outside of New Hampshire's largest city, Manchester. New Boston is also home to the New Boston Space Force Station (NBSFS), a base comprised of 2,800 acres of isolated wooded land with a small amount of military personnel and no trained emergency services personnel on the premises. Following the closure of the on-base fire station in 1993, NBSFS has relied on local fire departments for emergency services. The New Boston Fire Department initially led a mutual aid program called 'Hill Top' with other area fire departments; however, membership in Hill Top eventually declined and New Boston is now the sole provider of fire and emergency management services to the station.

With support from DCIPP, the New Boston Fire Department would build a new facility to better serve their community and the New Boston Space Force Station. The current fire station was constructed in the 1960's and does not have showers, a decontamination area, sleeping quarters or space to house modern firefighting equipment. Between July and November of 2022, the New Boston Fire Department failed to respond to 24 emergency calls because the Department lacked the space to house personnel to respond to those calls. A recent audit conducted at the current station found multiple building violations and concerns with the conditions of the facility. Officials believe these deficiencies have contributed to a downturn in recruitment and retention for the fire department as many have expressed concerns with the current state of the station. A clean, safe and modern facility would enable the Department to recruit and retain members who would provide swift and appropriate emergency response to the community and the New Boston Space Force Station.

I strongly support the DCIPP application from the town of New Boston's Fire Department and urge your favorable consideration of its worthy proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis in my office at 603-647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator