



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2007

The Honorable David Price  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
B307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Rogers:

As the conferees meet to resolve differences between the House and Senate-passed FY 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations bills, we urge you to fight to maintain the generous levels you have included in the House bill for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters (SAFER) and Assistance to Firefighters Grant programs.

As you know, the SAFER program, authorized in 2003, provides much-needed funding for career and volunteer fire departments across America to hire new firefighters and recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. This program is critical to the thousands of fire stations across the country currently operating short of staff. Indeed, two-thirds of all career and volunteer fire departments in our nation, located in both large cities and small towns, do not have sufficient personnel to adequately protect the public. Through your leadership, the House bill includes an historic \$235 million for SAFER which will help bring our nation's fire departments to staffing levels that will improve the safety of our firefighters and the communities they serve.

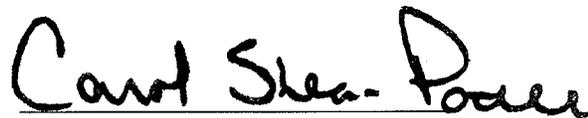
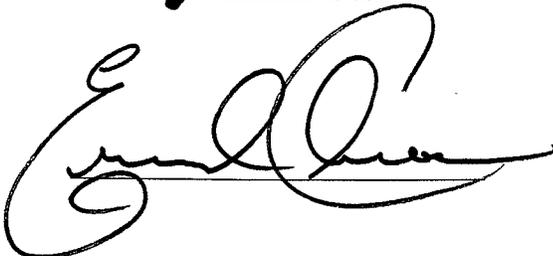
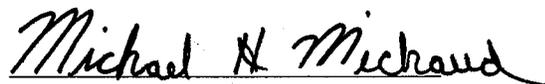
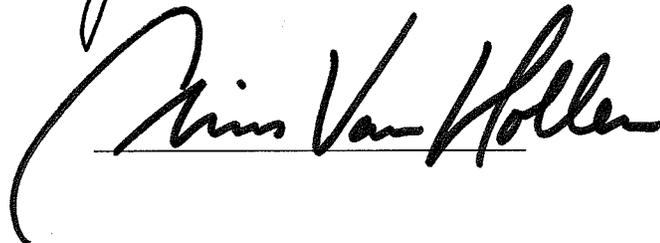
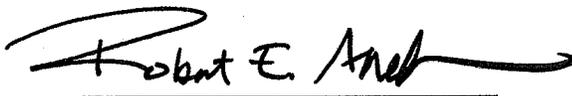
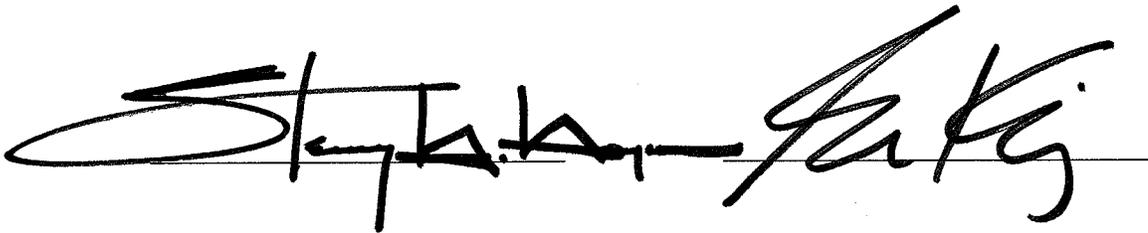
The SAFER program complements the very successful Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, through which the federal government provides funds for training and equipment to fire stations throughout the country. Since 2001, this program has positively impacted public safety by providing more than \$3.7 billion for infrared cameras, personal protective gear, hazmat detection devices, improved breathing apparatuses, advanced training and fitness programs, fire engines, prevention and education programs, and interoperable communication systems. This is the basic equipment our fire departments need to effectively respond to all hazards. Through your leadership, the House bill includes \$570 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

We ask far too many of our first responders to risk their lives in our defense every day, too often with insufficient staffing, inadequate training and obsolete equipment, and we have an obligation to provide them the necessary resources to perform their jobs as safely and effectively as possible.

On behalf of our nation's first responders, we would like to thank you for your strong and continued commitment to fulfilling this obligation. We urge you to work in conference to maintain the additional funding you have provided for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters (SAFER) programs in the House FY 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

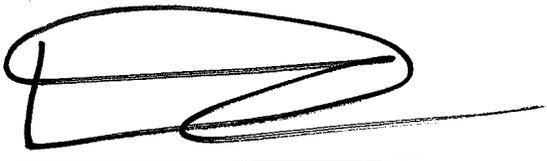


Lin M

Bob Filner

Tim Holden

Ron Paul



Jerrold Nadler

Rosa L. DeLauro

Ed Burns

Dan Lubyack

Michael Bennet

John A. L. Benisek

Allet R. Wynn

Ellen Stump

Carrie Brown

John W. McHugh

Richard E. Neal

Jim Moran

Rip Rabe

Peter Welch

Anna Bradley

Jason Altmire

Vic Snyder

D. Beckett

Sam Tan

John Hall

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Tom Loh

Chapman

Lois Capps

John B. Ramm

Alexander Tulchinsky

Alleg Sin

Todd R. Platts

Wm. A. Gray

Neil Ferguson

Joe Courtney

Stephen J. Lynch

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Kirsten E. Hillibrand

Jay McInerney

Tom Ryan

Mike Ron

Melissa L. Bean

Henry Culler

D. Gill

Mike Doyle

Shelley Berkley

Joe Brown

Clayton Brown-Waiter

Ed Pahl Colorado #7

Dan Claitor

Tim Griffin

John P. Iker

Kim McInerney

De W.

Baumgardner

Elton Gallegly

Russ Carnell

Carolynn McCarthy

Bill Delahunt

Sam Brown

Earl Blumenauer

Mark Udall

J. C. Hooper

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_