

**Congressional Fire Services Institute / International Association of Fire Chiefs /
International Association of Fire Fighters / National Fire Protection Association /
National Volunteer Fire Council**

June 5, 2013

Congressman David Reichert
1127 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman John Delaney
1632 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Reichert & Congressman Delaney:

On behalf of the nation's fire and emergency services, we write in support of your amendment to H.R. 2217, the Fiscal Year 2014 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. The amendment provides an additional \$1.838 million for the United States Fire Administration (USFA), restoring funding to the pre-sequestration Fiscal Year 2013 appropriated level of \$44 million.

USFA plays an important role at the national level, helping ensure that the nation's 32,000 fire departments are prepared to respond to all hazards. Each year, the agency provides training to approximately one million fire and emergency service personnel through the National Fire Academy (NFA). It collects critical data and conducts research to reduce the threat of fire and other dangers in local communities.

Unfortunately, over the past decade, USFA's budget has **been reduced by 25% percent**. Continued cuts will cause serious consequences across the entire spectrum of USFA's mission. They will impact NFA's ability to deliver courses and prevent improvements to the infrastructure of the NFA, eliminate important programs that promote fire safety and fire prevention in the wildland-urban interface, reduce technical support for the National Fire Incident Reporting System, and impact funding for the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony.

Your amendment will help ensure USFA is able to continue its important mission. We remain grateful for your leadership in ensuring that America's fire and emergency services are prepared to protect the public from all hazards – both natural and manmade. Best wishes for your continued success and safety.

Sincerely,

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