

CHRIS COLLINS
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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Congress of the United States
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December 10, 2013

Ms. Elizabeth M. Harman
Assistant Administrator
DHS/FEMA Grants Program Preparedness
800 K. Street NW, 9th Floor South Tower
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Harman:

I would like to express my support for the Newstead Volunteer Fire Company located in Newstead, New York and its Assistance to Firefighters Grant application in regards to the Department of Homeland Security. This grant would allow for the Newstead Volunteer Fire Company to make much needed upgrades to their equipment.

The Newstead Volunteer Fire Company is manned by volunteer firefighters that provide a valuable service to the community. These volunteers are stretched thin and dedicate much of their time to answering a large volume of calls. Each of these calls has numerous risks involved for the firefighter; aged equipment should not be one of those risks a firefighter has to face. This fire company will use the grant to purchase 20 Scott 2.2 Air-Pak 75 SCBA-AV-3000 face pieces with voice amplifiers and storage bags and 2216 psi 30-minute carbon bottles.

These upgrades will replace the Company's 20 outdated SCBA units, including 30 year old steel air bottles. The current air packs do not meet the current National Fire Protection Association's standards. The Company is also looking to replace steel air bottles that have been in service since 1983. This outdated equipment is causing an extra burden that these firefighters should not be subjected to.

For these reasons, I am asking you to support this application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. If I may provide any further assistance, please contact our District Office at 716-634-2324.

Sincerely,



CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress