(Name of Senator)

United States Senate

XXXXXX Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator (Name):

We write to encourage your support for reauthorization of the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) and SAFER fire grant programs in the first session of the 115th Congress. These two programs provide much needed safety and response equipment to career, volunteer, and combined fire departments and their first responders across the U.S., while also helping departments fill personnel shortages.

Our nation’s local fire and emergency personnel are the first to respond to major weather events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods. They are the first responders in DHS’ National Response Plan and National Incident Management System; they protect federal facilities, and serve their local communities with over 33 million calls annually, including transportation accidents, hazardous spills and medical emergencies.

The AFG and SAFER programs are two of the most efficiently administered federal programs in existence, with AFG grant applications peer-reviewed by experts and first responders. Nearly all the funds go directly to local fire and emergency response departments. The grants fill critical gaps in equipment and apparatus, and help to raise the standards of response to both national and local all-hazard events. All categories and departments benefit from the program including volunteer fire fighters who comprise 70% of the nation’s 1.1 million first responders.

As a company that makes first responder equipment and/or apparatus, we are dedicated to providing our nation’s first responders with the equipment that helps save lives and respond to events of both local and national significance. As a small business manufacturer, we also provide jobs to our community (or state of XXXX). In fact, the fire service industry, consisting mostly of small businesses, employs over 113,000 workers nationally, with nearly all of its products made in the U.S.

The authorization for AFG and SAFER terminates in January of 2018. We ask that you support efforts by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee to reauthorize the program this year.

We thank you for your support, and if we can be an informational source to you, please call XXXXXX on our staff.

Sincerely,