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Committee on House Administration
Ranking Member

Committee on Appropriations
Vice Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee on Defense

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Mutual Aid Bunk-in Program in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Brockport Fire District, located at 38 Market St, Brockport, NY 14420.

The funding would be used for renovations, equipment, and other activities necessary to establish a Mutual Aid Bunk-In Program for student firefighters. Funding would also be used to complete renovations, safety upgrades, and furnishings. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a critical public safety need in a cost-effective and collaborative manner. Volunteer fire departments throughout the region are experiencing increasing difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers, particularly during daytime hours when many members are away for work. The Mutual Aid Bunk-In Program provides a practical solution by creating housing for student firefighters who are willing to serve as volunteers while attending nearby colleges. Rather than requiring departments to transition to significantly more expensive paid staffing models, this program helps strengthen volunteer response capacity using an innovative and sustainable approach.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph D. Morelle".

Joseph Morelle
Member of Congress