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Dear Senator Harp and Representative Geragosian,

My name is Paul J. Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters. I am here today to ask for your assistance in **restoring proposed cuts** to the programs affecting fire fighter training and fire school complexes.

Program reductions of 25% impacting grant programs administered by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control will adversely affect the budgets of every fire department in the state that will be utilizing these programs to train new recruits in the coming year. These 'rookie' training programs are the only ones of their kind in Connecticut and fire departments depend on these vital programs.

In addition, reductions in fire school budgets will pare already lean training budgets at regional fire schools by nearly 50% in some cases. This just cannot work.

A summary of the reductions are as follows:

Firefighter Training I -126,313
Payments to Volunteer Fire -48,750
Fire Training School – Willimantic -40,450
Torrington -20,342
New Haven -12,091
Derby -9,285
Wolcott -25,041
Fairfield -17,599
Hartford -42,334
Middletown -14,763
Stamford -13,858
TOTAL -370,826

Please reconsider these cutbacks. Reductions in public safety funding during times of increased responses and needs does not protect the citizens of Connecticut, rather, it puts us all at increased risk.

Thank You for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Paul J. Rapanault
DIRECTOR, Legislative/Political Affairs