CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 9, 2010

Senator Toni Harp, Co-Chair Appropriations Committee

Representative John Geragosian, Co-Chair Appropriations Committee

Subject: Agency Presentations & Public Hearings
Regional Fire Training Schools

I am Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents approximately 26,000 career and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association asks for your support of the budget for the Regional Fire Training Schools. While we feel that the proposed allocations are inadequate (gubernatorial rescissions have decreased present needs), we are also fully aware of the state's current fiscal concerns.

It should be understood that this funding is used to **offset** operating expenses for these schools. It does not cover all the operating expenses. The rest of the expenses are paid for by tuition payments by the firefighter students. These tuition funds either come directly from the firefighter's pockets, or from municipal budgets. Any reductions in these allocations would result in an increase in program tuition. Any increase in program tuition would have a direct affect on the firefighter/student's municipality.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association asks for your continued support for the allocations for operating Connecticut's Regional Fire Training Schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

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