



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Education Committee

242 Spring Hill Road, Storrs, Connecticut 06268

*Burrville Regional Fire School
Eastern Connecticut Fire School
Fairfield Regional Fire School*

*Hartford County Regional Fire School
Middlesex County Fire School
New Haven Regional Fire Academy*

*Wolcott State Regional Fire School
Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School
Stamford Regional Fire School*

State of Connecticut
General Assembly
Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
March 12, 2012
Dear Committee member,

I am writing to urge your support of Section 2 (b) (2) of Senate Bill #25. This specifically pertains to "Capital construction, improvements, repairs, renovations, and land acquisition at fire training schools, not exceeding \$28,200,000."

Since 1999 members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association have worked with several members of the General Assembly (in both the House and the Senate) and the staff at the Department of Public Works (now the Department of Construction Services) in order to promote the rebuilding of the infrastructure at our regional fire schools. During the 2001 state legislative session, \$200,000 was appropriated to fund a facility study of the existing regional fire schools. This study was completed by the Department of Public Works and a detailed report was issued in June of 2002. This report included specific recommendations and a proposed budget to accomplish those recommendations.

This effort has been a priority legislative initiative for the Connecticut Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations and additionally has gained the support of the Governor who has included funding for this project in the recently announced FY 2012 Midterm Budget Adjustments.

Regional fire schools offer services to a significant number of fire departments across the state. These services include:

- Provision of basic level training which is delivered to nationally recognized standards
- Uniformity of training deliveries and quality control of that training
- Opportunities for trained firefighters to partner with firefighters trained at other regional fire schools to accomplish basic operational functions
- Support of the volunteer component of those fire service organizations that save the Connecticut Taxpayers in excess of one hundred million dollars each year
- Provision of training for local fire departments that is offered locally and remains readily accessible and affordable for members of these departments.

These established regional fire schools have already developed a competent pool of dedicated instructors to deliver these essential courses. The facility improvements that include appropriate classrooms and live fire training mock-ups will significantly improve and enhance these local deliveries.

Please continue your support during this critical time to make sure that this essential project gets funded. When completed, this project will have a significant positive impact upon the safety of the citizens of Connecticut as well as the safety of our firefighters.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Hawkins, chairman