February 25, 2015

Connecticut General Assembly
Appropriation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: House Bill 6824

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to request that you keep the funding in place for the Regional Fire Training Schools. It would be grave mistake to not maintain our regional schools. They provide a valuable asset to our local fire departments. Many local communities and fire departments do not have the monies or the infrastructure to be able to provide the training and facilities that the regional schools are able to do. Eliminating this funding will put the burden on the local communities most of which are already running on lean budgets.

OSHA and the National Fire Protection Association require that firefighters are trained in the knowledge and skills in order to carry out their duties. The whole basis for this is that each and every one of us goes home safely at the end of the day. The regional fire schools provide standardized, structured and nationally recognized training programs that give firefighters the tools to be safe in the performance of their duties. If this training is left to the local departments to provide you will lose the integrity of these training programs.

I implore you to keep this funding in place so that our regional fire training schools can continue to provide the high level of training that is required to keep our firefighters safe and performing at the highest levels of service to our residents.

Sincerely,

L. Scott Andrews

L. Scott Andrews
Fire Service Instructor
Valley Regional Fire School