

Honorable Co-Chairs Bye and Walker, Vice Chairs Hartley, Genga and Porter, Ranking Members Kane and Ziobron, and Committee Members:

It would be a tremendous disservice to all firefighters in the State of Connecticut to discontinue funding the Regional Fire Training Schools. The training schools are the only source of firefighter certification training and other advanced training for a vast majority of fire departments within the state, many of whom are struggling just to retain trained members and thereby provide necessary emergency services to their citizens on virtually a daily basis.

It should not be lost on this Committee that Connecticut's firefighters are the foundation of an effective, all-hazards emergency response. Nothing exemplifies this more than their vital roles in responding to major events such as super storm Sandy and October snow storm Alfred, not to mention daily occurrences of fires, motor vehicle accidents, rescues and emergency medical responses. I urge you to support Connecticut's firefighters in their tireless effort to provide emergency services to their citizens and your constituents by restoring funding for the operating budgets of the Regional Fire Training Schools. Thank you.

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