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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0306

February 2, 2024

State Forester Thomas A. Torres
Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
1110 W Washington St, Ste. 500
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Mr. Torres:

I write regarding Northwest Fire District's (NWFD) application for an Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management grant under the newly established grant program, through Senate Bill 1720, to address critical infrastructure and equipment needs for the state's recognized fire districts. Funding would allow the Northwest Fire District to purchase battery-operated fans and tools with the goal of improving safety standards for firefighters and emergency response units in the field.

NWFD is the largest fire district in the state of Arizona. Within its legal boundaries, NWFD provides fire and emergency medical services, and special operations response across 156 square miles and to a population of approximately 135,865 residents. Of these residents, more than 56,000 reside in the Town of Marana, located in my congressional district.

This proposal seeks to improve firefighter safety by replacing 16-year-old, gas-powered exhaust fans, which are bulky and increase hazards in the fire suppression environment, with new battery-powered fans. In addition to better portability in the field, battery-powered equipment is among the emerging technologies in the fire service that reduce carcinogens in the field environment by helping to reduce contaminants in the air. The battery-operated fans, and complementary tools and accessories (grinders, reciprocating saws, spare batteries, and chargers), provide additional benefits of eliminating noise and trip hazards.

I am pleased to furnish a letter on behalf of Northwest Fire District and I commend the District for their vision to improve firefighter safety. As you make this important funding decision, I respectfully ask that you give Northwest Fire District's proposal full and fair consideration under all applicable rules and laws. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress