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## United States Senate

April 23, 2018

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND  
FORESTRY  
APPROPRIATIONS  
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HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Brian Kamoie, Assistant Administrator  
DHS/FEMA/Grant Program Preparedness  
400 C St. SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20472-3620

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

I write to you in support of Central Valley Fire Districts (CVFD) application for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

CVFD serves a population of over 38,000 Montanan's across approximately 200 square miles of rural, suburban, and urban areas of Gallatin County. While CVFD has primarily relied on volunteer firefighters in past years, volunteer participation has waned and additional staff have been added to provide coverage to such a diverse population. Significant efforts have been made to recruit and train volunteer firefighters, however retention rates are low. In 2016, CVFD responded to over 1,660 calls. With nearly 25% of the calls occurring simultaneously, providing a sufficient number of firefighters was challenging.

If successful, funding will be used to hire three additional firefighters for the District, bring the total to 18, enabling CVFD to meet National Fire Protection Association standards. In addition, CVFD will be able to provide quality emergency services to the citizens of the District as well as maintain the safety of firefighters by ensuring a sufficient number of responders.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If I can answer any questions or provide you with any information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator