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# United States Senate

February 19, 2016

W. Craig Fugate, Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

**RE: AFG application #EMW-2015-FO-06965**

Dear Mr. Fugate:

I write in support of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant application by the Columbus Rural Fire District #3 in Columbus, Montana. The CRFD is applying for funding for self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA). It is my understanding that this request falls into the high priority category.

The Columbus Rural Fire District would make great use of this grant. Their current SCBAs are older and manufactured by a company that is no longer in business. They regularly have to repair harnesses and at least one-third of the SCBA bottles have reached the end of their life span. Additionally, they have already identified and set-aside the necessary matching funding needed if their application is successful.

The Columbus Rural Fire District team provides an efficient and vital service to its community and surrounding areas. They are relied upon to provide mutual aid to surrounding fire departments, not only within Stillwater County, but also other adjoining counties. This grant would help ensure the safety of these firefighters and be a real benefit to the Montanans they serve.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, do not hesitate to contact me. Please inform my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator