

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 20, 2020

Ms. Bridget Bean
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
400 C Street SW, 3N
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Ms. Bean:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Houlton to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). If awarded, the Town of Houlton Fire Department seeks to acquire 35 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or turnout gear as well as a PPE washer/extractor and dryer to clean and dry the gear.

The Town of Houlton Fire Department is a service center in Aroostook County situated in northern Maine along the U.S./Canada border. Due to its location along a shipping route, Houlton houses critical infrastructure, including an international U.S. Customs port of entry and two U.S. Border Patrol facilities. In addition to the federal infrastructure, the community is home to an international airport and is the county seat holding several government buildings and a Maine State Police barracks. The community invests significantly in its fire department, and with challenging local budgets, the need for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant is clear. The firefighters' current gear is nearly two decades old, and the annual gear inspection for the last few years has identified replacement as a priority before the gear will need to be placed in an out-of-service status.

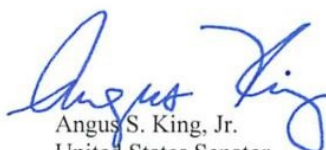
Thank you for your time and effort reviewing this proposal. We urge your careful consideration of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify

when a final decision has been made.

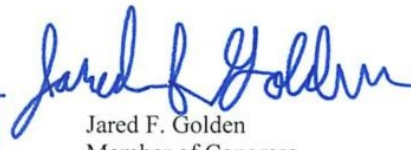
Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress