

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 9, 2023

Ms. Pamela Williams
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

Dear Ms. Williams:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Allagash, Maine, Fire Department to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. Allagash seeks federal funding for critical public safety equipment.

One of Maine's northernmost communities, Allagash is the largest town in Maine in terms of total land area and has approximately 230 year-round residents. The Town also welcomes an additional 6,000 to 8,000 temporary residents who travel there to participate in outdoor recreational activities, such as hunting, fishing, and canoeing. The public safety needs of the Town, and four surrounding townships, are met by a dedicated volunteer department with twelve members, including seven who are nationally SCBA-certified Firefighter level II and nine who have been on the fire service for at least twelve years.

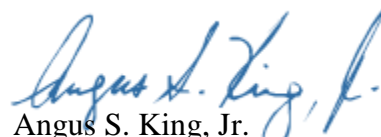
Allagash seeks \$350,000 in FEMA support to replace a noncompliant pumper truck with a 1,500-gallon water capacity truck and related equipment. Located deep in Maine's rural Aroostook County, an area designated by the Northern Border Regional Commission as economically "distressed," the Town does not have at its disposal the resources to make this needed investment in public safety. Due to the Department's small budget of \$10,500 per year, most of its equipment is aging and outside funding is essential to maintaining the Department's ability to ensure public safety for residents and visitors.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the Town of Allagash. We urge your careful consideration of its proposal, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify Trevor Hustus (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator