

CITY OF COATESVILLE

BUREAU OF FIRE

ONE CITY HALL PLACE COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 19320

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

03 May 2024

Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan
709 E. Gay Street, Suite 4
West Chester PA 19380

Dear Representative Houlahan

I am writing on behalf of the Coatesville Fire Department to strongly endorse the application of the Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company for Community Project Funding to replace their critical breathing air apparatus air compressor and filling station. As Chief of the Coatesville Fire Department, I am keenly aware of the challenges and necessities of maintaining fully operational firefighting equipment.

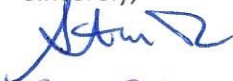
The current compressor and fill station at Wagontown Fire Department is over 25 years old and has recently been decommissioned due to the unavailability of replacement parts. This situation has left the department without the means to refill their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units, which are crucial for the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters. These units allow our teams to operate in hazardous environments, crucial for fighting fires and conducting rescues in conditions that are otherwise impenetrable.

Although the Wagontown Fire Department was fortunate enough to receive new SCBA units through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the funding did not extend to include the compressor necessary for refilling these units. Currently, our firefighters must rely on neighboring stations with operational compressors, a dependency that significantly delays response times and affects the readiness of our crew.

The addition of a new compressor and filling station would enable Wagontown Fire Department to maintain their equipment readiness in-house, enhancing our collective capability to respond to emergencies swiftly and effectively. The ability to refill SCBA units on-site is not just a matter of convenience but a critical component of operational safety and effectiveness.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,



Steve Dobson

Fire Chief – Bureau of Fire