



The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

March 6, 2025

Dear Secretary Duffy,

As the Administration undertakes efforts to streamline agency functions and best serve U.S. citizens, the undersigned fire and emergency services organizations write today to express our strong support for the critical public safety-related functions within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). These essential programs and personnel play a vital role in supporting public safety, national security, emergency response, disaster preparedness, and hazardous materials management. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to support the preservation of these programs in a fiscally appropriate manner, as they directly support the safety and security of our nation.

The NHTSA Office of EMS is instrumental in coordinating national efforts to improve emergency medical services, ensuring that communities across the country have access to high-quality, lifesaving care. The Office provides crucial guidance, technical assistance, and data collection to help EMS systems enhance their response capabilities and integrate effectively with broader public safety and healthcare networks. This coordination is essential for ensuring that first responders can deliver timely and effective emergency medical care during routine incidents as well as large-scale disasters.

Beyond the Office of EMS, DOT's various public safety-related functions support key areas such as highway safety, hazardous materials transport, emergency communications, and disaster response coordination. Programs within DOT help develop standards, training, and best practices that are critical to first responders as they protect lives and property. These efforts are particularly crucial in ensuring that hazardous materials are transported safely, that emergency response vehicles have the resources they need, and that public safety agencies are prepared for both natural and man-made disasters.

PHMSA is an essential partner in emergency response. It ensures the safe transportation of hazardous materials by road, pipeline, and rail. It updates and publishes the Emergency Response Guidebook to make sure responders are prepared for new and emerging hazards. It also provides essential training grants to help rural communities and first responders be prepared to protect their community during an accident.

We acknowledge and appreciate the Administration's decision to exempt public safety personnel from ongoing personnel changes. However, we urge you to include in this definition programs and personnel that directly support public safety



operations, such as those within NHTSA's Office of EMS, PHMSA, and other critical DOT initiatives. The continued functionality of these programs and agencies is essential to maintaining the effectiveness and readiness of emergency responders across the country.

We also recognize the importance of making government operations efficient and cost-effective, and we share your commitment to responsible fiscal management. However, we must ensure that public safety and national security initiatives are preserved to safeguard America's public and our first responders. We look forward to working with you to ensure that vital public safety initiatives and associated personnel can be maintained responsibly to ensure safety and security in America.

We appreciate your leadership in supporting the health and safety of our nation's first responders and emergency personnel. We stand ready to work with you to ensure these programs continue to fulfill their vital missions. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and we welcome any opportunity to discuss the importance of these programs further.

Sincerely,

American Fire Sprinkler Association
Center for Campus Fire Safety
Center for Public Safety Excellence
Common Voices
Congressional Fire Services Institute
Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association
Federation of Fire Chaplains
Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association
Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association
Fire Department Safety Officers Association
Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association - Government Relations Committee
Firehouse
FireRescue1
Institution of Fire Engineers – USA Branch
International Association of Arson Investigators
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Association of Wildland Fire
International Code Council
International Fire Buff Associates, Inc.
International Fire Marshals Association
International Fire Service Training Association
International Society of Fire Service Instructors
National Association of State Fire Marshals
National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
National Fire Sprinkler Association
National Volunteer Fire Council
North American Fire Training Directors
SFPE Foundation
USA Sprinkler Fitters Association
Women in Fire

