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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 15, 2009

Mr. Timothy W. Manning, Deputy Administrator
DHS/FEMA/National Preparedness Directorate
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

RE: City of Akron, Ohio SAFER Grant Application

Dear Mr. Manning:

As the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency considers applications for the Staffing for Adequate and Emergency Response (SAFER), I would like to bring to your attention a request submitted by the City of Akron's Fire Department.

The City of Akron's Fire Department is facing tough economic challenges, and has been forced to lay off 38 firefighters in an attempt to offset a projected budget deficit of $8 million by the end of the year. The City of Akron Fire Department's proposal seeks to preserve current staffing levels and rehire the 38 displaced workers.

These staffing levels are crucial for the Department to continue to protect the more than 200,000 residents of the City of Akron, the 5th largest city in the State of Ohio and the 97th largest city in the United States.

Please give serious consideration to the City of Akron Fire Department's application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of this application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

SB: lm

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