



August 1, 2023

The Honorable Jim Justice
Office of the Governor
State of West Virginia
State Capitol Complex, Building 1
Charleston, WV 25305

RE: Inclusion of EMS and Fire Funding Legislation on Special Session Call

Dear Governor Justice,

When a call comes to 911 for a fire, car wreck or heart attack, West Virginia's first responders do whatever it takes to save lives and property. Nights, weekends, holidays, rain and snow, ambulance agencies and fire departments answer the call.

But emergency response in our communities is being increasingly placed at risk by rising costs, inadequate funding, and a shortage of trained personnel.

Some members of the West Virginia Legislature recognized this growing crisis earlier this year and attempted to pass a bill (HB 3153), which would have provided desperately needed funding for EMS and fire departments. Unfortunately, the Senate and House were unable to resolve differences over details in the legislation, and it died during the last hour of the regular session.

Understanding the urgency for action, legislators have continued to discuss funding for EMS and Fire and an interim committee has worked to develop a compromise bill.

The more than 200 undersigned fire departments and EMS agencies jointly request that you place this compromise on the upcoming special session call. Additionally, we would ask that you consider providing a portion of the budget surplus to help aid fire and EMS until the proposed legislation takes effect in 2024.

When West Virginians experience life and property threatening emergencies, they can't wait for help. Every minute is precious. Likewise, EMS agencies and fire departments cannot wait long for the help needed to survive this existential emergency. That means not delaying action until the next legislative session in January but calling legislators into special session this summer.

Fire and EMS always answer the call when needed. We hope that we can count on similar response from you in our time of need.

Sincerely,

Albright Volunteer Fire Department
Alderson VFD and EMS
Alum Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Ansted Certified Fire Department
Appalachian First Response
Athens Volunteer Fire Department
Augusta Vol Fire Co
Baisden Volunteer Fire Department
Baker Heights Volunteer Fire Department
Bakerton Fire Dept.
Bancroft Volunteer Fire Department
Banks District V.F.D.
Barbour County Emergency Squad Inc.
Barrackville VFD
Bartow Frank Durbin Volunteer Fire Department
Beaver VFD
Bedington Fire Department
Beech Creek Vol. Fire Department
Belington EMS
Belington VFD
Belmont VFD
Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company
Best Ambulance
Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Dept
Beverly VFD
Blacksville VFD
Blennerhassett VFD
Bluefield Rescue Squad
Boone County Ambulance Authority
Bradley-Prosperity VFD and EMS
Braxton County Emergency Ambulance Authority
Braxton Office of Emergency Services
Bridgeport Fire Department
Brooke County EMS
Bruceton-Brandonville Volunteer Fire Department
Bruceton Community Ambulance Service
Cabell County EMS

Cairo Fire-EMS Department
Canaan Valley VFD
Capon Bridge Volunteer Fire Department
Capon Springs Vol Fire and Rescue Co
Cedar Grove Vol Fire Department
Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department
Chapel Vol Fire Department
Chapmanville Volunteer Fire Department
Chesapeake Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
City of Beckley Fire Department
City of Salem EMS
Coal City Fire Department & EMS
Coal Mountain Volunteer Fire Department
Cora Volunteer Fire Department
Craigsville Volunteer Fire Department
Danville Volunteer Fire Department Inc.
Davis VFD
Davy Fire Department
Doddrige County Emergency Squad
Dunlow Volunteer Fire Department
East Fork VFD
East Wood VFD
Elk District Ambulance Service
Elkins Fire Department
Elkins Volunteer Fire Department
Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department
Farmington Volunteer Fire Department
Fayetteville Fire Department
Flatrock Volunteer Fire Department
Flatwoods Community VFD
Folsom Volunteer Fire and EMS
Forest Hill Volunteer Fire Department
Fort Ashby VFC
Fountain Volunteer Fire Company
Frame Volunteer Fire Department
Frametown VFD
Friendship Fire Company
Ghent VFD EMS
Gilbert Volunteer Fire Department
Gilmer County Volunteer Fire Department
Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department
Glen Dale Volunteer Fire Department
Grafton Fire Department
Grant County Ambulance
Grant Town Emergency Medical Service

Granville Volunteer Fire Department
Great Cacapon Volunteer Fire Company
Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance Service
Hamlin VFD
Hancock County Ambulance Service
Handley Volunteer Fire Department
Hanover Volunteer Fire Department
Harrisville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Inc.
HealthTeam Critical Care Transport, LLC
Hedgesville Volunteer Fire Company
Independent Fire Company
Institute VFD
Jackson County EMS
Jackson's Mill Volunteer Fire Department
Jan-Care Ambulance Service
Jumping Branch-Nimitz Volunteer Fire Department
KAMP Central Ambulance
Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority
Kenova Volunteer Fire Department
Keyser Volunteer Fire Department
Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Lawrenceville Volunteer Fire Department
Leading Creek VFD
Levels Vol. Fire Company Inc.
Lewis Co. EMS
Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Company
Lincoln Emergency Medical Services
Lindside Vol Fire Dept
Logan Emergency Ambulance Service Authority
Lubeck Volunteer Fire Department
Madison Volunteer Fire Department
Main Harts Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Main Island Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Malden Vol. Fire Dept.
Marion County Rescue Squad
Marshall County EMS
Mason County EMS
Masontown Volunteer Fire Department
Matewan Volunteer Fire Department
Mathias Baker Volunteer Fire Company
Maysville Volunteer Fire Company
Middleway Volunteer Fire Company
Monongah Fire Department

Monongalia County Hazardous Incident Response Team
Monongalia Emergency Medical Services
Montgomery Fire Department
Moorefield Volunteer Fire Company
Morgan County EMS
Morrisvale Vol. Fire Dept.
Mount Hope Fire and EMS
Mount Olivet Volunteer Fire Department
Mullens Fire Department
Nettie Fire Department
New Creek VFD
New Martinsville Fire Dept
Newburg Volunteer Fire Department
Oakland District Volunteer Fire Department
Ohio County EMS
Ohio River Road VFD
Parsons Volunteer Fire Department
Patterson Creek Vol Fire Co Inc
Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Company
Pendleton County Emergency Rescue
Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company
Peterstown Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad
Pinch Volunteer Fire Department
Pipestem Volunteer Fire Department
Pond Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Prichard Volunteer Fire Department
Princeton Rescue Squad Inc.
Priority Ambulance Service
Putnam County EMS
Racine Vol. Fire Department
Randolph County EMS
Reedsville Volunteer Fire Department
Richwood Fire Department
Ridgeley Volunteer Fire Company
Ritchie County Ambulance Authority
Romney Fire Company
Rowlesburg Volunteer Fire Department
Salt Rock Volunteer Fire Department
Servia Volunteer Fire Department
Shepherdstown Fire Department, Inc.
Short Gap Volunteer Fire Company
Sistersville EMS
Sophia City Fire Department
South Berkeley Volunteer Fire Company
Springfield Area Rescue Squad, Inc.

Springfield Valley Volunteer Fire Department
St. Joseph Volunteer Fire Department
Summers County EMS
Summers County Volunteer Fire Department
Talcott Fire Department
Taylor County Emergency Squad
Teays Valley Fire Department
Terra Alta Vol. Fire Dept
Terra Alta Community Ambulance Squad, Inc.
Thomas Volunteer Fire Department
Trap Hill Volunteer Fire Department
Tucker County Ambulance Authority
Tunnelton VFD
Tyler County Unit # 1
Tyler Mountain Volunteer Fire Department
Upper Laurel Fire - Rescue
Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department
Valley Grove Volunteer Fire Department
Van Vol Fire Department
Verdunville Volunteer Fire Department
Vienna VFD
Wadestown Community Volunteer Fire Department
Washington Bottom Volunteer Fire Department
Washington District Volunteer Fire Company
Wayne Volunteer Fire Department
Webster Memorial Emergency Medical Service
West Hardy Emergency Medical Service
West Side Volunteer Fire Department
West Side Volunteer Fire Department #2
Weston Volunteer Fire Dept
Wetzel County Emergency Ambulance Authority, Inc.
Wharncliffe Volunteer Fire Department
White Sulphur Springs Emergency Medical Services Inc.
Whitesville Ambulance Service
Whitesville Fire Dept Inc
Wilderness Volunteer Fire Department
Wiley Ford Volunteer Fire Company
Williamson Fire Department
Williamstown Volunteer Fire Company
Wyoming County Fire Company Inc