

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 26, 2017

Ms. Bridget Bean  
Acting Assistant Administrator  
Grant Program Directorate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20472-3635

RE: AFG Grant Application Number: EMW-2016-FO-06834

Dear Ms. Bean:

We write to you today to express our strong support for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application, application number: EMW-2016-FO-06834, submitted by Polk County Fire Rescue.

Polk County is currently facing an uptick in forest fires while also experiencing dangerous drought conditions. To make matters worse, the County is facing fiscal restraints, resulting in the Polk County Fire Rescue having to do more with less. Polk County Fire Rescue needs these funds to properly fight this recent increase in forest fires. Currently, less than 20% of Polk County Fire Rescue personnel have access to thermal imaging units. With these funds, they can purchase new thermal imaging units to be placed on each response vehicle. In addition, over the past three years, Polk County Fire Rescue was the first on scene to assist in over 850 workable cardiac arrest patients. These funds would help purchase mechanical chest compression devices to assist with cardiac arrest patients, especially for patients with lengthy transport times. When minutes and seconds matter, we should be giving these first responders the tools necessary to prevent loss of life.

These funds will help Polk County Fire Rescue respond to fire emergencies and make Polk County a safer place to live. We fully support Polk County Fire Rescue's grant application and urge your serious consideration of this worthy request. Again, we thank you for your consideration.

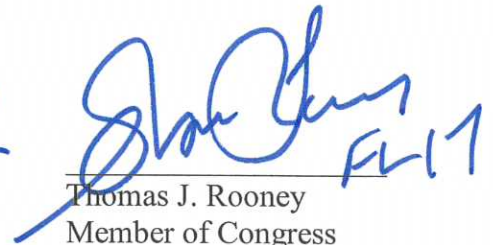
Sincerely,



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Dennis Ross  
Member of Congress

 FL17

Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress