

## United States Senate

July 13, 2017

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis:

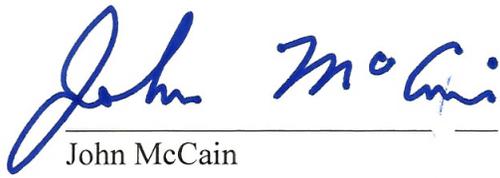
We write to request your assistance in a matter involving the transfer of excess firefighting vehicles under the Firefighter Property program (FFP).

As you know, thousands of state, local and volunteer firefighting agencies across the nation rely on FFP to acquire excess Department of Defense (DoD) vehicles and equipment that would otherwise be unaffordable. FFP vehicles are almost exclusively commercially available vehicles such as pickup trucks or non-combat support vehicles ranging from 2.5-ton and 5-ton trucks. After fire departments receive title, they normally retrofit these vehicles with water tanks, hoses, and other fire suppression equipment. Since 2006, over \$1.2 billion worth of FFP equipment has been acquired for state and local government use.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) recently imposed Trade Security Control (TSC) requirements on non-combat support vehicles, elevating them from low-risk "Demil Code A" property to the high-security category of "Q6" property. This classification change will restrict the ability of fire departments to obtain title to FFP vehicles. In addition, firefighting agencies will be required to obtain end use certificates, which necessitate collecting Social Security numbers and performing background checks on individuals affiliated with the recipient firefighting agency. Several states have reported that the burden associated with these new requirements will cause delays in vehicle transfers and force some states to terminate their participation in the FFP program altogether.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates that local fire departments extinguish 97% of wildlife fire incidents on initial attack. As the United States continues to struggle with growth in wildfires and suppression costs, now is a highly inopportune time to impede the abilities of local fire department to acquire vehicles under the FFP program. We respectfully request that you examine the concerns raised by state and local fire agencies about the new TSC requirements and consider taking administrative action to address this issue so that firefighters are able to obtain the equipment they need.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
United States Senator



Jeff Flake  
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



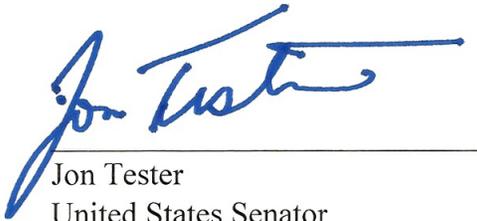
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Jim Inhofe  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



John Barrasso  
United States Senator



Tom Carper  
United States Senator



Orin Hatch  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator