



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE KARA ROCHELLE
104TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4115
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

VICE CHAIR
HOUSING COMMITTEE
MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT
COMMITTEE

February 7 2019

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Office of the Governor
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

I write to implore you to approve the bonding of the Valley Fire Chiefs Regional Training School, a truly worthy, necessary, and important investment for public safety and this region. To give you a bit of background, the Valley Fire School lost its place of operation 20 years ago when it was discovered to be environmentally unsound and toxic. Despite this, the Valley Fire School continues to operate, training volunteer and career firefighters, law enforcement personnel, fire police, EMS personnel, boards of education, various youth programs including but not limited to the Boy Scouts, and babysitting programs. Volunteer fire service in the valley is not only deeply engrained in the region's culture, but also a crucial, free workforce that these municipalities cannot otherwise afford. Having a fire school to maintain, train, and draw new volunteers is vital to keeping this essential service going for the region.

It is also important to note that this school does not simply teach residents who live or serve in the valley, but often draws departments to travel to train at VFS from other regions of the state, because of its dynamic and efficient course offerings, including dual-courses and specialized training relevant to the region's particular emergency response needs. The courses are professional, affordable, convenient, and varied. It is particularly important to note that the Valley Fire School trains more people per man hour than any other fire school in the state.

The Valley Fire School has been "next in line" for years, and when CT fire schools build project was initiated more than a decade ago, the VFS was at that time first in line. It chose to let another fire school go first out of professional courtesy as it got its paperwork in order for a build, but has since languished in line now more than a decade past on what was supposed to be a 5-year project for all of the schools.

It is crucial that the Valley Fire School be bonded, your public promise to build is kept, and we ensure that the volunteer fire service of this region has the facilities needed to keep a strong, well-trained force in place to continue services for these communities. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions. I respectfully request that this item be placed on the next bond commission's agenda and bonded as soon as possible.

All my best,
Representative Kara Rochelle
104th House District
CC: Melissa McCaw, Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management