

United States Senate

April 5, 2021

Mr. Bob Fenton
Senior Official Performing the Duties of Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Fenton:

I am writing in support of the Reno Fire Department's (RFD) application for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program.

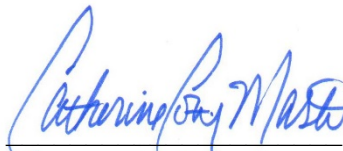
The RFD will use the \$7,492,396 to hire an additional twenty firefighters to their understaffed department. The City plans to use six of the 20 additional firefighters to provide full ladder truck staffing to a station whose surrounding area has experienced increased response times because the RFD only has the resources to staff it with a medical rescue unit. The remaining additional firefighters will be used to reduce overtime costs department wide, providing a savings of over \$2 million annually.

The Reno Fire Department protects 110 square miles in Northern Nevada and serves a population of 266,000. RFD currently uses 14 fire stations with 13 engine companies, two truck/ladder companies, and one rescue unit. The RFD responded to over 42,000 calls for service in 2020 and the department has experienced a 26% increase in calls for service over the last five years. However, RFD must handle this significant increase in calls with staffing at 1999 levels.

Per the requirements of the SAFER grant, the City has a plan in place for retaining the twenty firefighters after the three-year grant has expired.

I hope that you will give the Reno Fire Department application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants Director at Grants@cortezmasto.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator