JERRY McNERNEY
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December 5, 2012

The Honorable Buck McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon:

As you and other conferees meet to reach a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), I respectfully urge you to include language that reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). This language is critical to ensuring that USFA is able to continue leading and supporting our nation's firefighters in keeping our nation, and our states, safe.

The Senate adopted an amendment reauthorizing USFA during its consideration of S.3524, the NDAA for FY 2013; this amendment is identical to legislation, H.R. 6229, that my colleague Rep. Judy Biggert and I introduced earlier this year. H.R. 6229 authorizes for five years the USFA Administrator to take steps to educate the public about fire safety, prevention, and preparedness, and authorizes the necessary funds to undertake these activities.

California requires vast resources to help combat the threat of, and respond to, fires throughout the state. H.R. 6229 ensures that USFA will be able to fulfill its mission of reducing the loss of life and economic damage caused by fire and other related emergencies. USFA not only provides our nation's 1.2 million firefighters with the tools and training they need to keep our communities safe, but also administers grants that have created or saved the jobs of thousands of firefighters. Reauthorizing USFA is critical to improving our economy and protecting our communities.

As you engage in the difficult process of negotiating a final NDAA for fiscal year 2013, I urge you to include authorization of USFA. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your efforts on behalf of our nation's service members.

Sincerely,

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services

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