



# International Association of Fire Chiefs

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September 26, 2018

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

On behalf of the approximately 12,000 members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I thank you for your leadership in drafting the conference report to H.R. 302, which includes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018 and the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. This legislation includes important provisions that will help the nation's fire and emergency service to use new technology to help their communities and help communities to mitigate the many hazards that they face.

The conference report to H.R. 302 includes language requiring the FAA to report on the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) by local fire departments. UASs offer an opportunity for fire departments to improve operations on the fireground and for specialized missions like hazardous materials response and search and rescue missions. However, many fire departments face obstacles to using UASs including line-of-sight regulations and the definition of public agencies. This report should help Congress and the FAA to identify obstacles to the use of UASs by fire departments and begin work to remove these obstacles.

In addition, the conference report includes provisions to help communities better mitigate the risk of the many hazards that they face. With this legislation, states that receive the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Fire Management Assistance Grants will be able to receive hazard mitigation assistance. This hazard mitigation assistance will help communities to install erosion barriers, build flood barriers, and take other actions to prevent the floods and landslides that can occur after wildland fires. In addition, this legislation will allow greater investments in predisaster mitigation and encourage the adoption of building codes and standards to protect communities.

The IAFC thanks you for your leadership in drafting this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to pass this conference report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Eggleston".

Fire Chief Dan Eggleston, EFO, CFO, CMO  
President and Chairman of the Board

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