



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 12:48 pm, Sep 16, 2025

Dear Secretary Noem:

I write to express my strong support for Putnam County's recent application to the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program, submitted to the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Putnam County is in dire need of additional emergency response firefighters. The SAFER Grant would provide the County with the necessary federal resources to hire and sustain 12 full-time firefighters over a three-year period. This funding is especially critical for a predominantly rural county spanning over 827 square miles, where resources are limited but emergency needs are rising.

The County's request is essential to meet the growing demands for emergency services caused by both recent and projected population growth and economic development in Putnam County. In addition, this federal investment will help improve response times, expand coverage, and strengthen the County's capacity to protect residents and property amid evolving challenges. Putnam County's SAFER grant application is a well-substantiated request addressing urgent staffing shortages in a rural, economically challenged setting experiencing rapid growth and increasing emergency demands. Without this federal funding, Putnam County risks falling short of national safety standards, jeopardizing both firefighter welfare and community safety.

Your prompt review of their application and consideration of the County's request for federal assistance are crucial for my constituents. I respectfully request an update and timeline regarding the status of the County's SAFER grant application. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy A. Fine".

Randy Fine
Representative, FL - 06