

**CHIEF TIMOTHY S. WALL
NORTH FARMS
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT., INC.
P.O. BOX 4337
YALESVILLE STATION
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
1-203-265-7173**

April 7, 2003

Senator Toni Nathaniel Harp
Co-Chair Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, LOB
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative William R. Dyson
Co-Chair Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, LOB
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Co-Chairs Harp and Dyson:

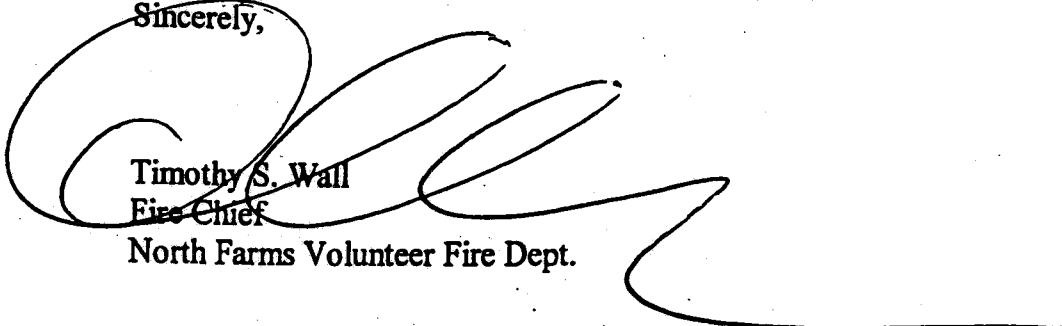
I am writing to you as Chief of the North Farms Volunteer Fire Department in Wallingford, CT. I have a concern with the governor's proposed Budget for the FY2003-FY2005 Biennium. In the Governor's Budget FY2003-FY2005 all funding for the Limited Access Highway Reimbursement Program administered by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control as authorized by the Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 13a-248 has been eliminated.

The Town of Wallingford's Fire Department is a combination fire department, with paid and volunteer fire fighters. We respond to numerous incidents on Limited Access Highways in our town. The program called for us to receive a reimbursement of \$75.00 each time we responded to a call on the Limited Access Highways in our town. In 1971 this was raised to \$100.00 with no increase since this time. I am asking that this program not be eliminated from the budget.

I believe that fire departments in the State of Connecticut perform a vital public safety service to the state by responding to calls on the Limited Access Highways. It is important that we are able to put in for the reimbursement. The money helps to off set costs of equipment for our firehouses, as well as operating expenses. I have attached a copy of the Budget for the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, which shows the elimination of the program.

I would be more than happy to meet with you and discuss this extremely important issue for fire departments across the State. Please feel free to contact me at 203-265-7173.
I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Timothy S. Wall
Fire Chief
North Farms Volunteer Fire Dept.

Cc: State Senator Len Fasano
State Rep. Mary Fritz
State Rep. Mary Mushinsky
State Rep. Bob Ward
State Rep. Al Adinolfi

Fire Chief Peter J. Struble
Mayor William W. Dickinson
Wallingford Town Council

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Wallingford's Volunteer Fire Fighters perform a vital public safety service for the community as well as the State of Connecticut by responding to emergency calls on Limited Access Highways, and

Whereas, the State of Connecticut reimburses volunteer fire companies \$100 for each incident enabling such emergency responses, and

Whereas, the Governor's biennium budget FY 2003-FY 2005 has eliminated all such funding as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13a-248.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Wallingford Town Council urges the Governor and the General Assembly to restore such funding and by so doing recognize the very important emergency service rendered by the volunteer fire companies to citizens in need of help.

ADOPTED BY THE _____ OF THE _____
CONNECTICUT, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2003.

Town Clerk (seal)

Date