

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1300


Dear Secretary Hagel:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Defense (DoD), citing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently interrupted the transfer of surplus military equipment to states and local governments that are used for firefighting, natural disaster mitigation and relief, and law enforcement. We are deeply concerned that this decision was made during the peak of wildfire season.

We understand that there may be confusion within DoD and EPA over the interpretation of regulations barring the transfer of federal vehicles that don't meet certain emission standards. As a result, the U.S. Army's Tank and Automotive Command (TACOM) and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced last week that they were unable to transfer trucks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service for loan to state forestry organizations under the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP) and the Firefighter Property Program (FPP). Every year, these two programs supply local firefighting agencies with over \$150 million in excess federal equipment like trucks, pumps, generators, and engine parts. For many small and rural fire departments, federal excess equipment may be the only equipment they can afford. So far this year, 83% of all wildfires have been responded to by state and local fire agencies, most of which were on federal lands.

We see no justification for government red-tape to stand in the way of helping first responders get the equipment they need to respond to wildland fires, floods, and other natural disasters. While we understand that DoD and EPA may be close to resolving this issue, we respectfully request that you provide us with your specific course of action for rescinding the restrictions placed on both the FEPP and FPP programs and clarify any vehicle title concerns raised by state foresters and law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John McCain  
United States Senator

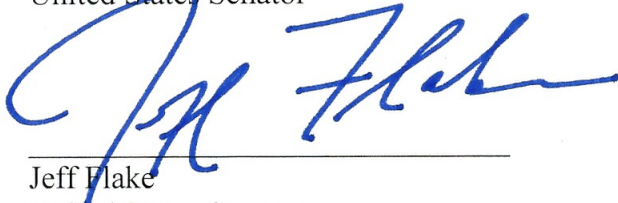
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



John Barrasso  
United States Senator



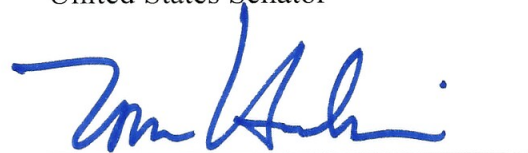
Jeff Flake  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



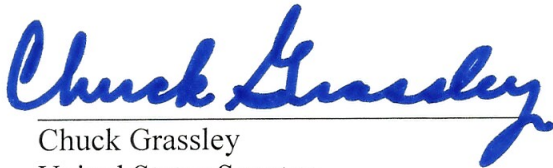
Tom Harkin  
United States Senator



Mike Johanns  
United States Senator



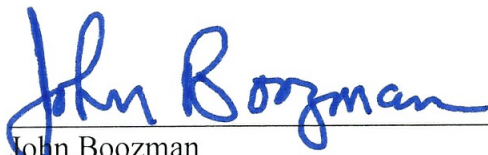
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



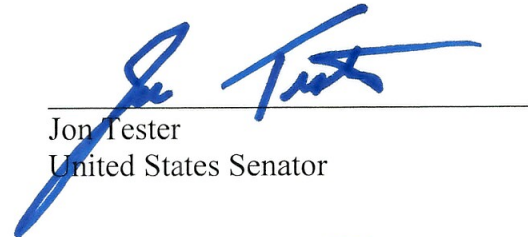
Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator



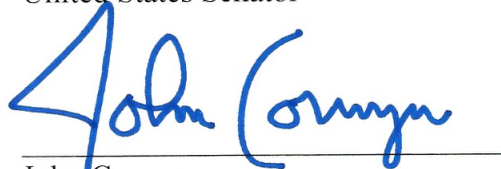
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



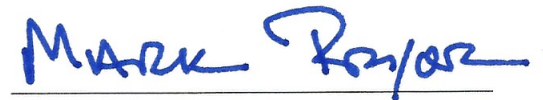
John Boozman  
United States Senator



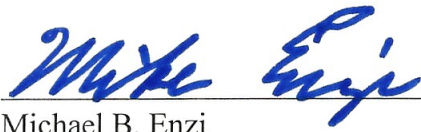
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Mark L. Pryor  
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator



Mark Udall  
United States Senator



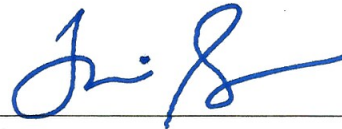
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



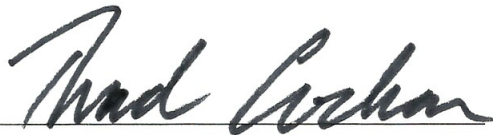
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Daniel Coats  
United States Senator



Tim Scott  
United States Senator



Thad Cochran  
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham  
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator