

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

DENISE ANDREWS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND FRANKLIN DISTRICT
ATHOL, ERVING, GILL, GREENFIELD,
ORANGE, WARWICK

Committees on:
Revenue
Election Laws
Labor and Workforce Development

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 443
TEL. (617) 722-2460
FAX. (617) 626-0120
Denise.Andrews@MAhouse.gov

November 14, 2011

Mr. Stephen D. Coan, State Fire Marshall
Department of Fire Services
P.O. Box 1025, State Road
Stow, MA 01775

Ms. Carole Cornelison, Commissioner
Division of Capital Asset Management
One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Western Massachusetts Fire Training Academy, Springfield

Dear Fire Marshall Coan and Commissioner Cornelison:

I write to add my voice to that of my colleagues on behalf of the western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs to express my strong support for the establishment of a Department of Fire Services (DFS) fire training facility in Springfield, as authorized in Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2008 (General Spending Bond Bill).

I join many of my colleagues, which represent communities in western Massachusetts to urge swift action to accelerate negotiations between DCAM and the City of Springfield on the acquisition or long-term lease necessary of an acceptable site for the proposed facility for the advancement of this initiative.

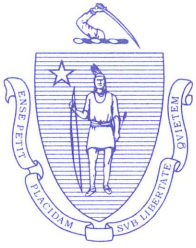
Firefighters living and working in my district currently have no other option that to commute between 120-160 miles each day during the thirteen week training period. Both the cost of travel and the alternative of locating lodging nearby to the current training facility puts that training out of reach for many. Establishing a second state run fire training facility in Springfield will increase the accessibility of training for fire departments and their prospective personnel, shorten waiting lists and streamline training.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I share the hope of my colleagues that an agreement will be reached expeditiously with the City of Springfield so that this project may advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Andrews".

DENISE ANDREWS
State Representative



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DENISE ANDREWS
State Representative
Second Franklin District