



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Chairman Cole
Chairman, House Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ranking Member DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Districtwide Fire System Repair and Replacement project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, located at Northwest Arctic Borough School District 776 Third Street, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752.

The funding would be used for the local match of a pending State of Alaska Department of Education grant award. The project will replace and modernize fire systems through complete replacement at six of the district's twelve schools. Systems at all schools are beyond their life expectancy, replacement parts are obsolete, and technicians who can work on the systems are hard to find.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars because these projects will serve the 4,890 community residents. If a school building is lost to fire in these small, rural communities, there is often no other building large enough to hold a school. It also typically takes about 2-3 years for design and construction to replace a destroyed school, even on an emergency basis. To replace any of the schools would cost between \$50 million and \$100 million.

The project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas J. Begich III".

Nicholas J. Begich III
Congressman for All Alaska