

Senator Maria Cantwell

4/13/07

I am writing to you today to ask for your support of the Senate Companion Bill to the Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act, HR1285.

If Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue, a volunteer fire department, is anything like our District, they will need all the support possible to continue operating. The fire department is currently housed in facilities that are old, out dated and do not meet current building codes. It is extremely difficult for any fire district or department to get funds for land or buildings.

Our District has an EMS response, and as someone who is familiar with emergency medical services, I believe that HR1285 will allow for an improved fire and emergency medical response in the Snoqualmie Pass Area.

Passage of this bill will benefit thousands of motorists, tourists, truckers, commuters, outdoor enthusiasts, etc. that pass through Snoqualmie Pass on a daily basis. Access to Interstate-90, the location of most current emergency medical and fire responses within the Fire District response area, would be greatly improved. Additionally, the new location would be more accessible to most of the approximately 20 volunteers who volunteer their time. Also, building a new station would vastly improve working conditions for the volunteers as well as allow for better emergency medical response services.

Your continued support of this bill would be greatly appreciated!

Respectfully,



Daniel Lester

Commissioner/Chairman, Stevens County Fire District #12