

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1501**

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

As you craft the fiscal year 2022 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$100,000 in community project funding for the Protivin Fire Department in Protivin, Iowa, located at 222 S Main St, Protivin, IA 52163.

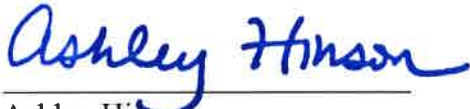
The rural, underrepresented, and low-income area encompassed by the Protivin Fire District in Iowa requires a new fire station in order to serve the needs of the community adequately. The Protivin Fire District faces a unique set of challenges as a tiny department that serves an expansive area that is quick to ignite, given the amount of cropland. The Protivin Fire District serves seven towns across three counties, totaling a population of 915 people and nearly 100 square miles, most of which is rural farmland with a median income substantially below the national average. The town of Protivin itself is home to a mere 262 residents – nearly 10 percent of the population sent in a letter of support for this project. The surrounding land supports the agriculture sector of a tri-county area, including many farms that produce corn and soybean – crops that are vital to the biofuels industry of Northeast Iowa.

The petite fire station hardly has the capacity for its twenty volunteer firefighters and five fire trucks, causing additional moments to be lost when responding to time-sensitive emergencies due to limited walking space and only two garage doors. Rigs are parked bumper to bumper, sometimes without even inches in between. This forces volunteers to climb over and around the packed equipment, rearrange the vehicles, and lose valuable seconds in order to retrieve the proper gear and apparatus for the nature of the emergency. In every emergency, it is critical for first responders to have a quick and immediate response, but such response lag in Protivin is detrimental to the local economy given its dependence on the robust health of crops and agricultural products.

The receipt of community project funding for \$100,000 for the Protivin Community Volunteer Fire Department would provide an extremely rural and low-income region with stronger access to an essential service. These funds would allow Protivin to double the size of its fire department, enabling volunteers to remain on-site in preparation for emergency calls, wash their gear onsite, partake in trainings and meetings, and quickly deploy the necessary vehicle(s) at the time of the call. The new building will be constructed with cement walls, serving as the largest building and sole safety structure during natural disasters to act as a command center and first aid center for the community. The fire department would be able to store equipment, training materials, and emergency materials, such as sandbags for flooding in the actual buildings instead of various buildings and private residences around town.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY22 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill in order to provide the brave volunteers of Protivin with the resources necessary to reduce response time and keep their rural community safe.

Sincerely,



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Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress  
Committee on Appropriations