

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey today announced that the Port Ewen Fire District has been awarded a \$167,675 federal grant to purchase new firefighting safety equipment. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"These federal funds will provide much-needed equipment for the dedicated firefighters in the Port Ewen Fire District," Hinchey said. "This new equipment will help keep our firefighters safe as they protect the public from fires and other emergencies. Additionally, this federal grant spares local taxpayers the cost of this much-needed equipment."

The funds allocated to the Port Ewen Fire District are for the purchase of a new air fill station and 26 new compatible air packs. According to retired Chief, Clark Maines, who applied for the AFG grant, "Without the monies from the AFG program, it would be difficult for the fire district to provide this level of upgraded safety to its firefighters. Additionally, the air fill station could prove to be a valuable resource to mutual aid partners in the event of a catastrophic fire."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$14 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district

The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his Congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.