



May 6, 2024

RE: FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending Request / Construction of a New Fire Station on Behalf of the Weston Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (WVFD)

Dear Senator Welch,

The Planning Commission for the Town of Weston is in full support of The Weston Volunteer Fire Department's quest to dramatically improve the current firehouse's susceptibility to and resiliency from flooding. In support of this statement, the Planning Commission which recently completed a town wide survey followed by public meetings for the update of the Weston Town Plan, heard loudly and clearly from the residents that action needs to be taken to support the WVFD and that it is a beloved institution in this town.

As a result of that, the Planning Commission has proposed the following language to the Selectboard in our draft Town Plan document (which will be adopted in October of 2024 by the Selectboard):

"The Weston Firehouse is located on Route 100 immediately north of the village area. The Town of Weston leases the property and building to the Weston Volunteer Fire Department. The property is located within the West River flood hazard area and has experienced several significant flood events, including most recently during the July 2023 flood. The frequent flooding of the firehouse has resulted in damage to the building, the vehicles, and the equipment, and diminished the capacity of the Fire Department to respond to emergencies. The Town should consider how to improve the flood resiliency of this facility. Options could include relocating the firehouse, providing better flood proofing for the station in its current location, or by other means."

In closing, we hope that your office will consider and approve the funding request being made by the Weston Volunteer Fire Department,

Respectfully submitted by the Planning Commission of Weston:

Lexi Young, *Chair* _____

Geof Brown, *Secretary* _____

Morgan Hart _____

Tom Ettinger _____

Elizabeth Swett _____