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# United States Senate

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ON AGING

January 20, 2002

Chief Stanley E. Labbe  
Litchfield Fire and Rescue Central Station  
Hallowell Litchfield Road  
Litchfield, ME 04350

Dear Friends:

I am very sorry that I am unable to join you in person today to celebrate the opening of this beautiful facility. The Town of Litchfield, your neighbors, and the central Maine region should take great comfort in knowing that this community - and those surrounding it - now has a modern fire protection facility. Indeed, the Litchfield Fire Department is now the envy of many rural fire departments throughout Maine. As a co-sponsor of the fire grant legislation that provides federal money for facilities, equipment, and training, I know firsthand that the needs of fire departments throughout the country are greater now than ever.

Volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel are some of the most dedicated and professional public servants that our State and country boasts. The required training, administrative duties, and the awesome risk associated with responding to emergencies makes the role of volunteer firefighters and rescue providers especially noteworthy. While their neighbors are sound asleep, miles away at work, or enjoying family recreation - volunteer public safety providers are at the ready and drop their own priorities at the sound of a tone to aid others. There is perhaps no other act of public service that is more commendable.

Again, I am truly sorry that my schedule keeps me from joining you to mark this exciting day. Rest assured that my thoughts and admiration will remain with you as you work to maintain this wonderful fire station and the equipment housed in it. The Town of Litchfield should be very proud of this facility and this accomplishment.

With best wishes for safety in this New Year, I am

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

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