



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AGENCIES FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY**

SCOTT E. PEPPERMAN, PRESIDENT  
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April 22, 2003

Mr. William Webb, Executive Director  
Congressional Fire Services Institute  
900 Second Street NE  
Suite 303  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Bill:

The State Agencies for Surplus Property have a long and proud history of support for the local emergency service providers. We provide the vital equipment that our first responders need, so that they may concentrate on the mission at hand. Local emergency services receive trucks, pumps, tanks, tools, generators, light sets, ambulances, protective gear, and computers to help them perform their duties. They receive refrigerators, stoves, beds, desks, chairs, and even building materials to assist them with their auxiliary functions and fund raising efforts. We provide all of this material to the local emergency service providers for only a fraction of its monetary value, charging only enough to recover our costs to administer the Federal Surplus Property Program.

The money saved through the utilization of federal surplus can be better spent on training, equipment upgrade, recruitment and retention – the side issues that greatly affect the responders' ability to cope with an emergency.

We strongly believe that representation on the National Fire Advisory Board would significantly enhance our ability to provide even greater services to our nation's firefighters. We will gain a greater and more precise understanding of their needs and priorities, and they will learn more about our ability to support them through this mutually-beneficial working relationship.

Additionally, our two associations share the overarching legislative goal of providing the highest quality equipment and supplies available to our first responders at the lowest possible cost. Our joint focus will enable us to concentrate our efforts more effectively.

Current legislation lacks initiative and implementation. The National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property urged the Department of Defense and Congressman Weldon to allow the State Agencies to activate the portion of the Fire Bill enabling first responders to receive excess property for fire fighting and emergency medical services. To date, not a single piece of property has been transferred as a result of this legislation. How many more opportunities will we have to do so much for our first responders that we can afford to ignore the tools we have at hand?

I wrote to you regarding this issue last October, and reinforced our position during our meeting a few weeks ago in Washington. In the interest of improving the service we already provide to the fire fighting and EMS community, I ask that you reconsider your decision and invite the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property to participate as a member of the Advisory Board.

Thank you for any and all consideration that you are able to give our request. Should you have any questions regarding our organization, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pro Bono Publico,

Scott E. Pepperman, President  
NASASP