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United States Senate

<http://santorum.senate.gov>

November 20, 2003

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne
Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
U.S. Department of Defense
3015 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E1006
Washington, DC 20301-3015

Dear Secretary Wynne:

In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-398), section 1706 authorizes the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess Defense Department personal property to any volunteer, paid or combined departments that provide fire and emergency medical services.

The National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property (NASASP) is comprised of the single state agency in each state and U.S. territory designated by law to distribute federal surplus property to eligible recipients within each state's borders. As such, the state agencies work closely with municipalities, volunteer and paid fire departments, and emergency services to provide the equipment and supplies they need on the surplus level, and would be well positioned to assume the responsibility of administering this vital source of supply on the excess level as well.

The state agencies currently have in place the screening, warehousing, administrative, and equitable distribution mechanisms necessary to ensure that the maximum amount of available equipment is placed directly into the hands of our nation's first responders. Many of the costs of managing the excess property program can coincide with those of the surplus property program, enabling the state agencies to provide this service to the first responders at the lowest possible cost.

The state agencies played a vital role in securing and transporting items such as cots, blankets, shovels, office equipment furniture and even body bags to the three major sites affected by the September 11 tragedy. On a daily basis, the state agencies provide vehicles, protective clothing, building materials, kitchen equipment, exercise equipment and much more to the brave men and women who protect our communities. The money saved by the first responders through the Donation Program can better be spent on training, recruiting and retention.

On a national level, NASASP has entered into cooperative agreements with the National Property Management Association and the Users & Screeners Association. Both

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organizations are concerned with the most effective use of property, which is the primary concern of NASASP. NASASP continues to work with the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, and other federal agencies to increase the quality and quantity of personal property available to our nation's emergency responders.

I ask that you grant due consideration to the long-overdue implementation of this vital Excess Property Program through the State Agencies for Surplus Property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rick Santorum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Rick Santorum
United States Senator