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Support for Legislation on Tax Abatement for Union Fire District Members

Dear Chairman Casey,

I am writing to express my strong support for the potential motion to approve legislation involving tax abatement of Union Fire District taxes for qualified Union Fire District members with the Union Fire District Charter amendment (House Bill 7838). This legislation presents a crucial opportunity to provide much-needed support to our volunteer firefighters who dedicate their time and effort to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities, particularly within the town of South Kingstown.

Volunteer firefighters play an indispensable role in safeguarding our neighborhoods, responding to emergencies, and protecting lives and property. However, the rising costs of living, especially housing costs, pose significant challenges for these volunteers, making it increasingly difficult for them to continue serving their communities effectively. By offering tax abatement for Union Fire District members, we can alleviate some of the financial burdens these volunteers face, thereby enhancing recruitment and retention efforts within the fire service. Recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters have become increasingly challenging across the nation, and Rhode Island is no exception. Many factors contribute to this difficulty, including demanding time commitments, rigorous training requirements, and, notably, financial constraints.

In South Kingstown, where eight fire stations operate to protect the community, the significance of volunteer firefighters cannot be overstated. These individuals selflessly dedicate their time, skills, and expertise to ensure the safety and security of residents, often putting themselves in harm's way to do so. By passing the proposed legislation, the Rhode Island House of Representatives has the opportunity to demonstrate its unwavering support for our volunteer firefighters and recognize the invaluable contributions they make to our communities. Providing tax abatement for Union Fire District members is not only a matter of financial assistance but also a testament to our appreciation for the sacrifices and dedication of these individuals.

In conclusion, I urge you to prioritize the passage of legislation concerning tax abatement for Union Fire District members and Union Fire District Charter amendment. By doing so, we can empower our volunteer firefighters, strengthen recruitment and retention efforts, and ensure the continued safety and security of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Tyler Parks