TINA DAVIS, MEMBER

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House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

## COMMITTEES

COMMERCE **GAMING OVERSIGHT** VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY **PREPAREDNESS** 

SOUTHEAST DELEGATION, SECRETARY

## **MEMORANDUM**

To:

All Members of the House of Representatives
Representative Tina Divis

From:

107 East Vine

Date:

May 22, 2012

Subject:

Increase VLAP Loan Amounts for Facilities and New and Used Apparatus

Co-Sponsorship request

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would amend Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by increasing the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP) amount caps for facilities and new and used apparatus.

Currently, volunteer fire companies and ambulance services apply for necessary loans through VLAP and are approved up to a certain capped amount. These vital organizations are looking to modernize or establish new facilities, or buy new and used equipment, but are restrained by the current loan caps which have been set in place for over two decades. The current loan caps are

- \$200,000 loan cap for modernizing or establishing new facilities which has remained unchanged since 1992;
- \$100,000 loan cap for buying new apparatus which has not been increased since 1990;
- \$60,000 loan cap for buying used apparatus which has been in place since 1990.

My legislation would increase the three loans caps for facilities, new apparatus, and used apparatus to \$500,000 each. This increase would give these important organizations the option to take out higher loans to make needed upgrades to their facilities or buy vital equipment.

Volunteer fire companies and ambulance services provide essential community services and deserve our continued support and funding. If you would like to co-sponsor this important legislation, please contact Debbie Brady at 717-783-4903 or at DBrady@pahouse.net.