

## Congressman Van Drew

### House AG Appropriations Subcommittee Testimony

- Good Morning Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop. It is a pleasure to once again testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. My district of Southern New Jersey has many rural areas, and I have worked well with this subcommittee over the years to deliver targeted resources where they are needed most.
- My primary focus today is Fire Trucks. Many years ago, I served as the Fire Commissioner for my hometown of Dennis Township. A Fire Truck does not just help a single town; it helps the entire region. All the trucks I am requesting today have automatic aid agreements where they help their neighbors.

- These four trucks, which I have listed at the end of my testimony along with their Community Project Funding submission numbers, are geographically distributed across my district to maximize their impact. Across these items I am asking for \$2,637,453 to purchase four new fire trucks for South Jersey.
- Each of these fire trucks is at least over 25 years old and they all have significant issues that make them less reliable and less effective. They must be replaced with more reliable, technologically capable vehicles. These trucks will all go to experienced fire companies that altogether protect and serve tens of thousands of constituents in my district.

- All four of these trucks have been identified as eligible for the Rural Facilities Program by the United States Department of Agriculture. Each recipient has provided a written commitment that they will provide the required non-federal funding match. All four of these trucks are within my top 5 Community Project Funding priorities – this is extremely important to me.
- No less important is my request to provide \$2.7 million in funding from the Rural Water account to Salem County to construct Sluice Gates. Sluice Gates are a flood control barrier used to direct the flow of rivers and streams. This project would fund three different sluice gates across Salem County.

- This is a top priority for Salem County, one of the most rural areas in New Jersey, because it would deliver flood mitigation benefits to thousands of rural households and farms. One of these sluice gates, which is in seriously poor condition, controls flooding for the access road to one of the largest nuclear power plants in the country.
- USDA has confirmed the eligibility of this project and Salem has committed to providing the required non-federal funds.
- Thank you for your consideration

Rep Van Drew FY27 AG CPF Requests

**#5196 - Maurice River Township Fire Truck - \$613,250**

**#5216 - Elsinboro Fire Truck - \$864,375**

**#5222 - Woolwich Township Fire Truck - \$613,125**

**#5228 - Wildwood Pumper Truck - \$546,703**

**#5235 - Salem County Sluice Gates - \$2,700,000**