

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2019

Rear Admiral Charles W. Rock
Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
1510 Gilbert St.
Norfolk, VA 23511

Dear Rear Admiral Rock,

We write with regards to the International Association of Federal Firefighter Locals located within our respective districts. As you know, these brave men and women are the first line of defense for protecting some of our nation's most valuable and sensitive locations. Their work is arduous, high-intensity, and absolutely essential to safeguarding our nation's assets.

In recent years, many federal firehouses have transitioned to an Alternative Work Schedule (AWS), to allow firefighters greater rest and recovery periods in between shifts. The demanding nature of the job can take a significant toll on a firefighter, and you would surely agree that it is in the best interest for all involved parties that these firefighters are adequately rested for their shifts.

The Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (NRMA) is one of the few federal firefighting regions that has not, at the very least, explored switching to an AWS. Consequentially, this region has seen an inordinate amount of transfer requests from firefighters seeking better working conditions, leaving crucial posts short-staffed and overworked. Undermanned posts also cost the federal government more money as firefighters are forced to work overtime.

We believe that exploring a transition to an AWS for the NRMA would be in the best interest of the firefighters, those whom they protect, and the American taxpayer. We ask that you please submit responses to the following questions:


1. How many firefighters at non-AWS Mid-Atlantic stations have transferred or requested to be transferred to Fire Departments employing an AWS?
2. How much did the federal government pay in overtime pay to firefighters based at NRMA stations in 2018?
3. Has your department conducted a study on an AWS of 48 hours on, 72 hours off? If so, please submit as part of your response.
4. Has your department conducted a study on an AWS of 48 hours on, 48 hours off? If so, please submit as part of your response.
5. If an AWS has proven successful at a region, has your department taken steps to analyze if that AWS could be applied to the NRMA region?

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your timely response to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Elaine Luria
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



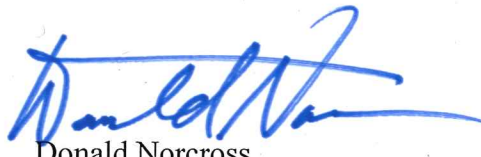
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress




Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress