MERCER COUNTY FISCAL COURT

County Judge Executive Sarah Steele

207 W. Lexington Street • Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330
Phone (859) 734-6300

www.mercercounty.ky.gov email: ssteele@mercerky.com

March 5th, 2026

RE: Letter of Support – Mercer County: Fire District Ladder Truck Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Judge/Executive of Mercer County, I am pleased to offer my full support and wish to apply for Federal funding through the Mercer County Fiscal Court on behalf of the Mercer County Fire District to purchase a new ladder truck to enhance fire protection and emergency response capabilities within our community.

Mercer County is currently experiencing significant economic growth, including the development of a large-scale mega site intended to attract advanced manufacturing and industrial investment. As this development progresses, it is critical that our emergency response infrastructure keeps pace with the increased demand for specialized fire protection services. A ladder truck will be an essential resource for responding to multi-story structures, large commercial facilities, and complex industrial incidents that are anticipated with this level of development.

The Mercer County Fire District provides vital emergency services to residents, businesses, and visitors throughout our county. However, the addition of a ladder truck would greatly expand the department's operational capacity, allowing firefighters to safely and effectively manage structure fires, conduct elevated rescues, and protect critical infrastructure associated with the mega site and surrounding industrial growth.

Investing in this apparatus will not only enhance firefighter safety and operational effectiveness but will also strengthen Mercer County's ability to support economic development by ensuring that modern fire protection resources are in place for major employers considering locating in our community.

The Mercer County Fiscal Court fully supports this initiative and recognizes the importance of equipping our fire district with the tools necessary to meet current and future demands. We are committed to working collaboratively with the Mercer County Fire District to ensure the continued safety and resilience of our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Sarah Steele

Mercer County Judge/Executive

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of our county fire department to outline the critical need for the acquisition of a ladder truck. As our community continues to grow, the demands placed on our emergency response services have increased significantly, and our current equipment is no longer sufficient to meet those needs safely and effectively.

As our county continues to develop and grow, we will be acquiring multiple multi-story commercial buildings, apartment complexes, and industrial facilities that require elevated firefighting and rescue capabilities. Without a ladder truck, our firefighters are limited in their ability to access upper floors, perform rooftop operations, conduct high-angle rescues, or apply water from an elevated position. This limitation not only impacts our effectiveness during emergencies but also places both citizens and firefighters at greater risk.

A ladder truck would provide:

- Elevated rescue capabilities for multi-story structures
- Improved fire suppression from above, increasing operational efficiency
- Safer access for firefighters during roof ventilation and overhaul
- Expanded reach in areas where ground ladders cannot safely be deployed
- Greater protection and response capability for the expanding infrastructure in our county

Our department strives to provide the highest level of emergency service, and securing this apparatus is essential for meeting modern safety standards and protecting our residents, businesses, and visiting public. The addition of a ladder truck is not simply a request for new equipment — it is a necessary investment in the safety, resilience, and preparedness of our entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support as we work to ensure that our county remains safe and well-protected.

David Goodlett

Fire Chief

Mercer County Fire

Bluegrass Area Development District

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699 Perimeter Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40517

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Web
www.bgadd.org

March 6, 2026

Anderson
Boyle
Bourbon
Clark
Estill
Fayette
Franklin
Garrard
Harrison
Jessamine
Lincoln
Madison
Mercer
Nicholas
Powell
Scott
Woodford

Congressman Andy Barr
Lexington District Office
2709 Old Rosebud Rd, Suite 100
Lexington, KY 40509

Dear Congressman Barr,

On behalf of the Bluegrass Area Development District, I am pleased to offer our support for the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Mercer County Fiscal Court to acquire an aerial ladder truck for the Mercer County Fire Protection District. This investment represents a critical step toward strengthening public safety capacity and supporting continued economic growth within Mercer County and the broader Bluegrass region.

Mercer County is experiencing significant industrial momentum, particularly through the development of the Bluegrass Innovation Gateway Megasite. As manufacturers and large-scale employers evaluate the region for future expansion, the ability to provide modern, high-reach fire suppression capabilities has become an increasingly important factor in site competitiveness. Local zoning provisions now allow structures reaching 100 to 150 feet, but current emergency equipment cannot adequately protect facilities of this scale. The proposed aerial ladder truck directly addresses this gap, ensuring that both existing industries and future prospects can rely on responsive, well-equipped fire protection services.

This project aligns with the priorities of the Bluegrass ADD's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which emphasizes preparedness, public safety resilience, and strategic investment in the foundations that support long-term economic opportunity. Mercer County has demonstrated strong local commitment and readiness to proceed, and federal support would meaningfully advance this essential enhancement to the county's emergency response capabilities.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and your continued efforts to support initiatives that strengthen safety, competitiveness, and economic vitality throughout Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District.

Sincerely,

DH Duttlinger

David Duttlinger, P.E., MPA
Executive Director
Bluegrass Area Development District