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November 24, 2008

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Shuster Announces Major Grant to Improve Communications for 15 Area Fire Companies

\$1,000,000 Grant will Improve Response Times, Help Save Lives

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce a major grant to enhance the ability of firefighters in Franklin, Cumberland and parts of neighboring Adams County to communicate with each other and other emergency services.

The Department of Homeland Security has approved a \$1,000,000 grant through the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Fire Fighters Program (AFGP) to modernize the communications equipment of 15 area fire and EMS departments.

“This is incredible news for the people of Franklin, Cumberland and Adams Counties,” Shuster said. “Communication is critical in emergency situations. If multiple departments respond to an event, they must be able to communicate with each other and tackle the emergency as a team. Interoperable communications equipment of the kind purchased through this grant will accomplish this, save lives and improve response times.”

“The timing of this grant is also important,” Shuster added. “Local governments, like the people they represent, are tightening their budgets. The communications equipment these firefighters need is expensive and the fire companies can’t buy it on their own. Instead of asking county government, these fire companies were able to pool their strengths and utilize this important federal grant program. I congratulate them on their success.”

The West End Fire & Rescue Company of Shippensburg served as the host fire company in applying for the \$1,000,000 grant. West End’s Fire Chief, Randy O’Donnell was excited to learn of their success. Randy said, “This grant will enable the emergency service to provide the service to the citizens of Franklin County. Without this grant our options for financial assistance would have been limited. This has relived an incredible financial burden on our volunteers. We would like to thank Congressman Shuster for his support.”

The 15 fire and rescue companies receiving a share of the \$1,000,000 grant are: the Waynesboro Fire Department; Waynesboro EMS; the Rescue Hose Company of Greencastle; Blue Ridge Summit Fire & Rescue; the Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Company; the Marion Volunteer Fire Company; M.M.P &W Fire Company of Mercersburg; the Pleasant Hall Fire Company; the Fannett-Metal Fire Company; the West End Fire & Rescue Company; the South Mountain Fire Company; Bucannon Valley, Adams County; the Newburg-Hopewell Fire Company,

Cumberland County; the Vigilant Hose Company, Cumberland County; and the Cumberland Valley Hose Company, Cumberland County.

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