



# Bonduel Area Fire Department

Village of Bonduel

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July 15, 2016

The Honorable Gary Tauchen  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
Room 13 West State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Subject: Firefighter Recruitment and Retention

Dear Rep. Tauchen:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to visit our recent Bonduel/Hartland Fire Commission meeting. Our members were very glad to hear from you and appreciate the interest you showed in their concerns.

One of the more critical issues facing small volunteer departments is the increase in training requirements. The number of mandatory class hours and frequent cancellation of classes due to low enrollment place major constraints on volunteer firefighters. It becomes difficult for them to complete their training and often discourages their participation. As a result, small departments like ours face significant recruitment and retention issues.

Our Fire Commission members have discussed this at length and wish to offer some possible remedies for you to consider as a legislator:

- Provide a tax break to members of volunteer fire departments.
- Provide a tax break for employers that allow firefighters to leave for a call during work hours.
- Present a Years of Service Award from the State of Wisconsin to recognize firefighters who have served faithfully for a certain amount of time.

The safety of our citizens is of paramount importance, and a sufficiently staffed fire department is crucial in providing that safety. Please share our concerns with your fellow legislators and take steps to assist us. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Randy Radloff, Chairperson  
Bonduel/Hartland Fire Commission

Robbie Woldt, Fire Chief  
Bonduel Area Fire Department

Bob Woldt, Sr., Chairperson  
Town of Hartland

Sharon Wussow, President  
Village of Bonduel