



Thorp

Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Department



August 12, 2016

Representative Kathleen Bernier

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Thorp Area Fire District. I have been told that there is a big push again to make the Fire One state certification mandatory for all firefighters.

I am against this becoming mandatory. Right now to be able to do entry for fires a firefighter has to go through entry level one and two which is 60 hours long. Then they have to do a live burn with Chippewa Valley Technical College fire training program. Plus we have in house training 4-5 evenings a month after the firefighters are done putting in 8 hour work day at their regular employment.

It is very hard to recruit personal in our small community now. We are volunteers and all have to work 40 hour jobs. We have an ambulance service that also takes a lot of training time. The added hours for the fire one class, is going to cost the tax payers of the Thorp Area. If the continued push by the state is to add more training the future for small rural communities will be going to full time personal or to become nonexistent and fire services will have to come from longer distances.

In conclusion please do not make the Fire One state certification mandatory for fire departments.

I am available to have further discussion with you on this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Robert Ebben

Thorp Area Fire and Ambulance District

Thorp Fire Chief

Thorp Ambulance Coordinator

Cell phone 715-613-5292



To Report A Fire Or To Get Ambulance Service
Call 911

