



**Mary Fallin**  
**Office of the Governor**  
**State of Oklahoma**

July 9, 2014

Administrator Gina McCarthy  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of the Administrator 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator McCarthy:

The decision by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) to stop making excess military vehicles available for firefighting purposes is devastating to rural fire departments across Oklahoma.

For more than 40 years, Oklahoma's rural fire departments have been repurposing excess military equipment for use in fire engines and water tenders. In fact, Oklahoma's rural fire departments are currently using almost 9,000 vehicles and pieces of equipment, valued at over \$150 million, acquired through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program and the Firefighter Property Program (FPP).

This equipment has been essential to supporting the efforts of local fire departments, which are the first responders in 75 percent of all wildfires.

As you know, the EPA has led the effort to discontinue this program, on the grounds that these surplus military vehicles fail to meet current emission standards.

This decision is wrongheaded and counterproductive in the extreme.

First, it seems obvious that the lives and property of Oklahomans should be placed as a higher priority over the less urgent need to control carbon emissions. Since 2004, at least 80 Oklahomans have been killed or injured by wildfires and more than 300,000 acres have burned, destroying more than 800 homes. I fear those numbers will grow as the EPA reduces the ability of local departments to effectively respond to fires.

Second, the impact of fire trucks and other fire equipment on the EPA's larger goals of controlling or mitigating the carbon footprint of the United States is negligible.

Finally, wildfires themselves are environmentally destructive events that produce carbon emissions and other toxins. The EPA's decision to hamstring fire departments seeking to control those fires is counterproductive to its own environmental goals.

I am therefore requesting you immediately reverse course and once again allow Oklahoma's rural fire departments access to surplus military equipment that will otherwise go unused.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Fallin".

Mary Fallin  
Governor