

Support for the Senator Heitkamp’s Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Act

“Senator Heitkamp has continually reached out to me and other North Dakota first responders to make sure we have the resources necessary to respond to growing threats in our communities. She also brought me to Capitol Hill, so I could speak with lawmakers directly about our experiences in Casselton and my decades of experience as an emergency responder. This bill is important in making sure we are prepared to keep North Dakota communities safe.”

- *Tim McLean, Casselton Fire Department Chief*

“This legislation is another symbol that Senator Heitkamp takes this matter seriously and is determined to find solutions. The enormous increase in the transport of crude oil by rail has forced us to prepare for new challenges, and Senator Heitkamp’s legislation will help us in our efforts. We look forward to continuing to consult with her as she works to support America’s first responders.”

- *Steve Dirksen, Fargo Fire Department Chief*

“What’s happening in the Bakken is truly impressive and our state continues to benefit from that economic development. However, with this good fortune comes increased responsibility. Senator Heitkamp’s legislation is a critical first step and we appreciate her attention to the important work done by first responders in North Dakota and across the country.”

- *Bill Fahlsing, Stark County Emergency Manager*

“The fact is that 96 percent of our first responders are selfless volunteers in the state of North Dakota. These individuals also have full time jobs and many other commitments. Senator Heitkamp understands this and the importance of making sure we have the necessary resources. It is very critical to get our first responders the proper training and equipment to keep North Dakota and the surrounding states safe, and be able to respond more efficiently and effectively.”

- *Amanda Schooling, Ward County Emergency Management Coordinator*

“Every day, first responders in North Dakota respond to keep their communities safe. While we can never know exactly what to expect, with proper training we can be well prepared to handle what comes our way. I commend Senator Heitkamp for making sure everyone out in Washington knows about the challenges facing first responders, and is putting forth plans to support them.”

- *Jason Catrambone, Williston Fire Department Chief*