INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

THOMAS H. MILLER
General Secretary-Treasurer

July 28, 2010

Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the nation's nearly 300,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, and urge you to vote for this important legislation when it is considered by the House of Representatives this week.

World Trade Center responders were exposed to a toxic mix of dust and chemicals, and subsequent medical screening has found significant physical and mental health impacts among responders and others who were at Ground Zero. Given this, continued funding for existing monitoring and treatment programs must be assured.

In addition to authorizing monitoring and treatment programs for responders and residents, the bill reopens the Victim Compensation Fund to provide compensation for individuals who did not file before or became ill after the fund's original 2003 deadline.

To control cost, H.R. 847 limits the number of responders and residents who many participate in the health and monitoring programs, and includes spending caps for both the health and monitoring programs as well as payments made under the Victim Compensation fund. The bill is fully offset by preventing foreign multinational corporations incorporated in tax havens from avoiding taxes on income earned in the United States.

Those who responded to the World Trade Center on 9/11 and in the following months selflessly put their lives and health on the line to help America recover from a national disaster. We have a moral obligation as a nation to provide them the care they need and deserve.

Thank you for your consideration and your support of our nation's first responders.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President