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For more information, please contact:

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Recruiting & Training the Next Generation of Firefighters

Public Hearing

Committee Discusses Ways to Preserve Life-Saving Care Provided by Firefighters

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - The Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee held a public hearing to listen to fire chiefs, firefighters and others about how to improve recruitment and retention of the next generation of volunteer firefighters across Pennsylvania.

In addition to explaining the impact of funding challenges, testifiers highlighted the need for communities to work together in support of first responders to preserve critical access to life-saving care for all Pennsylvanians.

In the 1970s, Pennsylvania boasted 300,000 volunteer firefighters. Today, that number is fewer than 40,000. To help bolster those ranks, the Senate this year passed Senate Bill 83, which would provide grants to establish fire training programs for students during the school year with the hope they will remain firefighters for years to come.

You can view hearing video and written testimony here.

<https://veterans.pasenategop.com/vaep-091321/>

Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern PA.

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - This week I had the opportunity to learn more about Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern PA. Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BFTP/NEP) invests in and supports companies to create and retain highly paid, sustainable jobs, catalyze technology-based economic growth in northeastern Pennsylvania, and advance technologies that improve the human condition.

BFTP/NEP serves a 21 county region in Pennsylvania including Monroe and Northampton counties. Since 1983 they have helped 520 companies start, created over 18,000 new jobs, and have helped raise \$1.56 billion in follow-on investment. Impressively they see a \$3.90 return to the Commonwealth on every dollar invested.

Monday I visited their headquarters and incubator/post-incubator facility on Lehigh University's Mountaintop Campus in Bethlehem. I also received a tour of Effort Foundry in Bath by CEO Charles Hamburg. Effort Foundry is just one of many companies in the 40th District that has benefitted by their partnership with BFTP. Also pictured with us is Douglas Engler BFTP/NEP's Lehigh Valley Regional manager and their Chief Investment Officer.



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