



Congressional Fire Services Institute

Educating Members of Congress about fire and life safety issues since 1989

Resolution of the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)
Adopted by the CFSI National Advisory Committee April 4, 2008

A Resolution in Support of Legislation to Strengthen The Enforcement of Fire and Building Codes

*Offered by
The International Code Council*

Whereas natural and man made disasters (fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, explosions, etc.) have the potential for causing widespread loss of lives, and damage to property, community infrastructure, and the environment; and

Whereas effective pre-disaster mitigation, thorough preparedness, timely warning, and well-trained and equipped response forces can reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by disasters; and

Whereas the effective enforcement of fire, life safety, and building codes is one of the best means of protecting the public and firefighters from natural disasters that impact our communities; and

Whereas the National Fallen Firefighters' Foundation has developed 16 initiatives to enhance firefighter safety, and Initiative Number 15 states, in part: "Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes..."; and

Whereas state and local adoption of modern fire, life safety, and building codes must be coupled with responsible and effective administration and enforcement of those codes by state and local fire and building code officials in order to be effective. Thorough and effective administration and enforcement of codes allows the maximum benefit of those regulations to be realized in fire, building, and life safety, enhanced property value, energy efficiency, business continuity and hazard mitigation; and

Whereas the national benefit providing support for local code enforcement is clearly evidenced by a recent report of the National Institute of Building Sciences that demonstrated that for each federal dollar spent on mitigation the federal government saves nearly \$4 in future disaster recovery expenses; and

Whereas the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act, when enacted and funded, will provide competitively evaluated federal grants, locally matched, to local governments who seek to build-up or improve their local code administration and enforcement capabilities; and

Whereas the Safe Building Code Incentive Act will encourage statewide vigilance in ensuring the application of modern building codes by enacting an increase in eligibility for federal disaster relief funding tied to effective statewide efforts in building code adoption and enforcement.

Therefore, it is resolved the Congressional Fire Services Institute and its members support the passage and funding of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act and the Safe Building Code Incentive Act.

CFSI does not intend for the term "life safety" to be an endorsement of any one code or product.

For more information regarding CFSI, visit www.cfsi.org



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National Advisory Committee

The strength of CFSI lies in its National Advisory Committee (NAC), a coterie of over 40 trade groups, issue organizations, and professional associations including the leading fire service organizations in the country.

The NAC convenes semiannually in Washington, D.C., to discuss federal issues that impact the interest of all first responders. When agreement is formed, the NAC can pass resolutions calling for Congress to address particular issues. Funding for the United States Fire Administration, reallocation of spectrum for first responders, and greater involvement of first responders in disaster mitigation are examples of the types of issues that NAC has supported at recent meetings. Only NAC members can introduce resolutions for consideration by the committee.

The Chairman of the NAC is Rick Patrick of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association. In May of 2006, he was elected as Chairman to a two-year term. The Vice Chairman is Kevin O'Connor of the IAFF.

Open to the public, the meetings are scheduled in the Spring (the day after the National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner) and the Fall of each year.

National Advisory Committee Organizations

American Fire Sprinkler Association
Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
Board of Certified Fire Protection Specialists
Building & Fire Safety Research Laboratory
Federation of Fire Chaplains
Fire and Emergency Manufacturers & Services Association
Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association
Fire Chief Magazine
Fire Department Safety Officers Association
Fire Engineering Magazine
Firehouse Magazine
Foundation for American Firefighters
The George Washington University Center for Emergency Preparedness
Home Safety Council
International Association of Arson Investigators
International Association of Black Professional Firefighters
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Code Council
International Fire Buff Associates
International Fire Marshals Association
International Fire Service Training Association

International Municipal Signal Association
International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Institution of Fire Engineers
JEMS Communications
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Association of Hispanic Firefighters
National Association of State Fire Marshals
National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications
National Emergency Equipment Dealers Association
National Emergency Number Association
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
National Fire Protection Association
National Fire Sprinkler Association
National Society of Executive Fire Officers
National Volunteer Fire Council
North American Fire Training Directors
SimplexGrinnell
Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Underwriters Laboratories
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