

*A resolution expressing recognition and support for initiatives to strengthen coordination among stakeholders in addressing the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fires*

*Offered by:*

*The International Code Council*

*Co Sponsored by:*

*International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Fire Service Training Association, National Fire Protection Agency, National Emergency Equipment Dealers Association, International Association of Arson Investigators, National Volunteer Fire Council, Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association, Fire Engineering*

Whereas structural development continues to penetrate deeper into the wildland region, creating greater threats of fire for homeowners who elect to build in an area designated the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI);

Whereas cost estimates for local governments to combat WUI fires exceed \$500 million a year, and \$2 billion for state and federal agencies;

Whereas annual wildland fire-related insurance claims are in excess of \$250 million;

Whereas the lives of first responders, as well as the general public, are increasingly put in harms way because of the threat posed by WUI fires;

Whereas, the issue is being addressed by stakeholders in government agencies and organizations at the local, state and national levels through initiatives and program, though such efforts can lack coordination, leading to duplication;

Whereas a coordinated and integrated approach to addressing WUI fires must recognize proper education, mitigation and suppression preparation and activities;

Whereas the Congressional Fire Services Institute has a record of participation in national initiatives to address WUI fires, including FIREWISE and Rural Fire Protection in America Task Force;

Whereas the role of CFSI is to educate Congress on fire and life safety issues, including the serious threat of WUI fire to our nation;

Now let it be resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee will continue to support and engage in efforts initiated by NAC members to enhance coordination among local, state, tribal, and federal agencies as well as the private sector.

Let it be further resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute will continue to educate Congress on Wildland Urban Interface fires and advance education, mitigation, including the development and enforcement of applicable codes, and suppression solutions at all levels of government.