

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

Whereas natural and man made disasters (fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, 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 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 16 states, in part: "Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes . . ."; and

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

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.