

A Resolution in Support of the Safe Building Codes Act of 2011

Offered by

The International Code Council

Whereas the adoption and enforcement of current model building and fire safety codes helps assure that structures are safe, sound and sustainable; and

Whereas current model building codes provide safeguards and proven technologies to protect against the known risks of natural and manmade disasters (fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, explosions, etc.) that have the potential for causing loss of life, and damage to property, community infrastructure, and the environment; and

Whereas the widespread statewide adoption and enforcement of current building codes is one of the best means of protecting the public and firefighters and other first responders from these known risks that impact our communities; and

Whereas effective pre-disaster mitigation, through assuring code-compliant structures, is an effective strategy for risk reduction; 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 existing appropriations for Stafford Act mitigation grants should be prioritized with a preference given to states that adopt and enforce statewide current national model building codes that cover both residential and commercial buildings; and

Whereas the Safe Building Codes Act would provide an additional 4% mitigation grant following a declared natural disaster to states that have adopted and are enforcing current model building codes; and

Whereas providing incentives to states to adopt and enforce current model building codes is an effective strategy to encourage states to update their building codes and put in place statewide enforcement programs, and

Whereas the Safe Building Codes Incentive Act has already been endorsed by leading code, building technology, fire prevention and insurance organizations collectively known as the Build Strong America coalition, and has already gained 11 bipartisan co-sponsors in the U. S. House of Representatives; now

Therefore, it is resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports the passage of The Safe Building Codes Act and encourages its members to learn more about the legislation by visiting www.BuildStrongAmerica.com.