

A Resolution Expressing Support for Extending Waivers of Certain Requirements under the SAFER Grant Program through Fiscal Year 2011

*Offered by
The International Association of Fire Fighters
The International Association of Fire Chiefs*

Whereas the ongoing recession has caused fire departments nationwide to institute layoffs and reductions in force, jeopardizing public safety as well as the economic recovery; and

Whereas in response to such staffing reductions, Congress enacted a waiver of the local cost share under the SAFER grant program for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

Whereas Congress subsequently enacted additional waivers of certain statutory requirements under the SAFER grant program for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 through the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Supplemental; and

Whereas the waivers enacted by Congress for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 have permitted hundreds of fire departments to avoid staff reductions and rehire laid-off fire fighters; and

Whereas the available funding has only been sufficient to save a portion of the jobs at risk; and

Whereas municipal budgets tend to lag behind economic recoveries by 2-3 years; and

Whereas, according to an October 2010 report by the National League of Cities, 25 percent of cities have implemented cuts to public safety and 35 percent of cities have instituted personnel layoffs in 2010;

Therefore Be it Resolved, that the National Advisory Committee of the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports extending the SAFER waivers enacted for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 through Fiscal Year 2011; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Congressional Fire Services Institute should educate Members of Congress on the benefits provided by the SAFER waivers and the importance of extending such waivers for one additional year.