

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A THREE-YEAR CODE ADOPTION CYCLE

Offered by the International Code Council

WHEREAS, the Congressional Fire Services Institute's (hereinafter referred to as "Institute") National Advisory Committee comprising 38 trade groups, issue organizations, and professional associations including the leading fire service organizations in the country share a common interest in public safety, property and environmental protection, and,

WHEREAS, the Institute recognizes and supports the adoption of model building and fire safety codes and standards as part of a comprehensive community risk reduction effort, and,

WHEREAS, when state and local governments stay current with updated construction and safety codes, market-ready solutions that increase the safety, resiliency, energy-efficiency and overall building performance are enhanced, and,

WHEREAS, outdated construction codes impose a hidden fee that shifts costs and risk from builders to businesses, property owners and the jurisdiction, and,

WHEREAS, communities adopting codes on different publication cycles increases the potential for confusion, complexity and duplication in the design and construction industries, and,

WHEREAS, communities adopting codes on corresponding publication cycles increases the potential for uniform enforcement, interpretation, cooperation and training among jurisdictions, and,

WHEREAS, implementation of up-to-date building construction codes enables public policy makers to promote safe, resilient and energy-efficient communities, while use of outdated codes can expose citizens to potential safety risks, and,

WHEREAS, model building construction safety codes are developed through a consensus-driven process that involves a broad range of stakeholders, including homebuilders, contractors, building owners, building code officials and inspectors, firefighters, fire marshals, building product manufacturers, design professionals, and advocates for consumers and public health, and,

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama on May 18, 2016 issued Executive Order 13728 that each Federal agency shall ensure that every new building more than 5,000 gross square feet on Federal land within the wildland-urban interface at moderate or greater wildfire risk is in compliance with the 2015 edition or latest of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) promulgated by the International Code Council (ICC), or an equivalent code, and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency on September 6, 2016 promulgated rules that FEMA will adopt and establish as appropriate, regulations, policies, grant conditions, or other appropriate instruments to require the use of, at minimum, hazard-resistant standards and provisions found in the most recent edition of the family of codes developed by the International Code Council or equivalent nationally recognized voluntary consensus standards as a condition to receiving federal assistance, and,

WHEREAS, a three-year building construction code adoption cycle drives innovation, economic development and tremendous cost-savings for consumers and businesses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports federal efforts to educate and encourage state and local legal jurisdictions within the United States to adopt the model building construction safety codes and standards in accordance with the three-year publication cycle employed by codes and standards development organizations.

Unanimously Approved on December 8, 2016