

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL AGENCY AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS THROUGH INCREASED FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR FIRE PREVENTION

Offered by:
National Association of State Fire Marshals

Whereas recent trends have shown that fire prevention remains a serious national problem;

Whereas data from the U.S. Fire Administration shows nationally there are fewer fires and injuries per year, the data also shows fires are becoming more severe with significant statistical increases in both deaths and property damage per fire;

Whereas the economic impact of every fire, especially with an increased trend in monetary loss, jeopardizes not just the economic vitality of our communities, but hampers our national goal of increased community resiliency;

Whereas fire prevention efforts proactively avert incidents from occurring, and the deaths, injuries, and damage to property and the economy that ensues; and help protect responding firefighters who would otherwise respond to these catastrophic events, risking death or injury;

Whereas at a time when federal, state and local resources and funding are limited, the most cost-effective way to save lives and reduce injuries from fire is to allocate additional funding for fire prevention;

Whereas Congress spends about 95 cents of every dollar appropriated to the fire services for operational efforts to extinguish fires and about 5 cents on fire prevention.

Whereas Congress has found fire prevention and control is, and should remain, a State and local responsibility, the Federal Government must help if a significant reduction in fire losses is to be achieved.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Congressional Fire Services Institute encourages federal authorities to:

- 1) Increase the level of federal funding dedicated for fire prevention by Congress and agencies such as USFA, to reverse the national trend of increased fire deaths and economic property loss per fire without jeopardizing existing federal fire operational funding.
- 2) Increase federal support for fire prevention efforts through adoption and enforcement of current codes, research, engineering, economic incentivization, and enhanced public education, which aid emergency response and economic development.
- 3) Support, fund and evaluate fire prevention efforts at the state and local levels that are based on data driven decision-making to identify and protect high risk and vulnerable populations from the deadly effects of fire.